

# 俺の異世界 姉妹が 白重しな!

1

緋色の雨

hitronoame

illustration

原人  
genzin





Ore no Isekai Shimai ga Jichou Shinai!

Arc 1 - My sisters in other world have no  
self-reverence

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[Novel Updates](#)

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# Prologue

A single room on the top floor of a certain hospital. A weak looking girl lies in a bed surrounded by monitors and medical instruments.

Her name is Amemiya Saya.

If she were to go to school, she would be in high school next year.

“.....Yuya, thank you for staying by my side all this time.”

“Ah...hey, don't talk like this is the end, that's bad luck.”

I sit down in a chair beside Saya's bed and poke her cheek; I brushed the hair away from her face. It seemed to tickle Saya and she accepted it.

“I really appreciate it, nii-san coming to visit me everyday, it makes me very happy.”

“That's because you're family, isn't this much natural?”

Our parents died long ago, and since then it has always been just the two of us. When I learned that Saya was afflicted with the same illness as our parents I promised her I would stay by her side until the end.

I honestly wanted to stay by her, so I've never felt as if she was a burden.

So—

“I know this isn’t good ... I know that I don’t have much time left, so I’ve abused the kindness of my brother ... I knew I’d become a burden to nii-san...”

I couldn’t express the emotions I felt at hearing Saya’s words.

“What...What are you talking about? How could I think of you as a burden?”

“You are kind, but I know, nii-san would have graduated next year, but you quit high school. Is it not because you want to spend as much time together as possible?”

“That’s not....”

It is true that I quit school, but there are other reasons that Saya doesn’t know about. But.....I can’t possibly tell her the real reason.

“It has been just the two of us for so long, I can tell when you’re hiding something, nii-san recently seems to be exhausted, also the number of times you sigh has increased, did you think I wouldn’t notice?”

“Well, it may have seemed like that recently, but it is not because it is a burden to look after you.”

“If that’s true, what is the reason?”

“That is.....”

I knew if I didn't say the real reason here it would be as good as acknowledging Saya's concerns. Still, I couldn't bring myself to say the reason. It was a secret that I did not want to talk about.

Even without speaking, Saya will immediately understand. I thought it would be better to clear up this misunderstanding later.

However—

I fall silent as Saya looks at me forcing a weak smile.

“Nii-san sorry for causing you so much trouble...However, this is finally the end...Therefore live for yourself from now on .....”

“.....Saya? Hey, Saya?”

I thought Saya's appearance looked strange so I panicked and turned my eyes to the bedside monitor. I couldn't understand the numbers shown on the screen. However—

“... .. Is the alarm being canceled?”

I furrowed my brow at the messages displayed on the monitor.

“I told the doctor to cancel it ... I wanted to .... I wanted to quietly spend my

final moments with nii-san...this is our last good-bye...”

“.....”

I understand her meaning, in a panic, I stretch my fingers to touch the alarm setting on the monitor. The moment I set the alarm back to its original state, it played a warning sound that filled me with anxiety.

“.....for me please, live freely.....become.....happy.....”

After her final words Saya fell into an eternal sleep. She misunderstood that she was a burden to me until the end – leaving me with only her wish that I would never be able to grant.

Then, one week passed. I finished Saya’s funeral and sorted out everything else. I was returning to the hospital room where Saya was hospitalized the other day. This time it is not a visit, now I will be hospitalized.

–Yes, I am now hospitalized.

The illness that my parents had suffered from was a genetic disease. When I had gone to visit Saya, I had myself checked out just in case, I then learned the fact that I have the same symptoms as Saya.

There is no known treatment method for this unknown disease. However, I would live longer than Saya whose symptoms kept getting worse. I knew this, that’s why I kept it a secret from Saya.

I didn't want to cause anymore suffering for Saya before she died.

However, as a result, Saya died while believing she had been a strain on me.

If it were possible, I would like to go back to that day and tell Saya the truth.

I was trying so hard, because I was suffering from the same illness as you, I never once considered you a burden.

But now that is lost forever. No matter how much I desire it, I can never go back to that moment.

Instead of regretting the past I thought of what I could do for my current self. I remembered Saya's words right at the end, a small wish. I think I want to make her wish come true.

However — —

“.....for me please, live freely.....become.....happy.....”

As I lie on the bed, I look out through the same window that Saya had once looked through. The streets spreading across the large windows look just like a boxed garden. This is the only world I can see for now.

This world is too small to live freely and grab my happiness.

“.....In the first place, Saya is no longer here”

I lived with my parents when I was young, since then I had lived with Saya.

The insurance money my parents left behind meant I did not have to worry about living expenses, but life with just two little children was a lot of hard work. Saya was like my other half, so it's impossible for me to be happy without Saya.

So – I made a decision.

I decided to lie.

I would gather various amounts of knowledge with the remaining time I had and make it appear as if I had experienced it. Then if I ever met Saya in the next life, I would lie to her that I was able to live freely and become happy.

It was a poor plan from the start. But at the time I had no other choice-

I spent the last year in my hospital room just collecting knowledge.



# Chapter 1-1: Promises of a Young Age – with a due date

After fighting the life threatening illness for what felt like forever, I had lost everything but my hearing.

Then the day came when I could no longer hear the voices of the nurses' coming in several times a day, and soon I fell into the same eternal sleep as Saya.

However, I somehow had regained consciousness. I could also feel light faintly hitting my eyes which previously could only see darkness. There were also nearby people being noisy.

I.....Am I alive?

I tried to make sure, my black and white vision was blurred and I could not see well. I could not hear much of anything either. I was barely able to hear the nearby voices which seemed to be female.

... ... That's right. Even if I haven't died yet the disease will not heal. In the end I'll just spend the time sleeping –

I also had time to think.

It's impossible to know the exact time I lie there, but it had to be about

several months.

When I gradually regained my sight and I could hear the surrounding voice clearly, I then understood the fact that I was a baby.

No, what do you say? I thought this was strange. After it became impossible for me to move, a high-calorie liquid food used to be poured into me, but recently I had been made to drink milk instead.

I thought to myself why milk? But, I am convinced if I am breastfeeding ..... I can understand! I've become a baby! I was reincarnated by heaven! Is that it?

Damn! I was planning to find Saya in heaven when I die, but if I am reborn suddenly, the plan will no longer happen – still it would be wrong to say that this is a problem.

Let me calm down a bit.

First, was I really born again? It seems like I am breastfeeding from a strange woman, but....I look up at the woman again. She is around the age...maybe her late teens? She has a pretty well-ordered appearance, and is wearing maid clothes...is it? She is wearing a white and black apron dress.

There is no chance this woman is a nurse.....no.

I have never heard of a nurse breast feeding a patient. In the first place this woman is several times bigger than me. If I were my original size then how many meters must this person be.

If you think about it, it is an undeniable fact that I was reborn as a baby, I can not think of any other possible reason for me becoming a baby other than being born again.

In other words, I was sure that I was born again – I thought that my imagination was wrong for a while but I could not find any reason to think otherwise.

.....Indeed, I had been born again.

Or rather? If anything had happened, it would be more dramatic to reunite with Saya in heaven. I wonder what Saya would have done if she had been reborn.

It's like matching the winning numbers for the first prize of the lottery. Except not getting any prize money because it was actually last years lottery! I think that this is a meaningless miracle. (TL Note: I do apologize for these last few sentences tried my best to accurately translate them, but I was having a lot of difficulty)

But....it is better than if no miracle had happened.

If I was reborn, I should not have to be afraid of the disease anymore. And if I get a healthy body, when I next meet Saya I would no longer have to lie.

This way I can fulfill Saya's last wish. I can live freely in my second life and once I've had enough experiences, I can become happy, die again, and at that time –

While I'm deep in thought, the woman begins to look into my face. Then, she says something with a strange face.

She does not speak Japanese, so I am unable to understand anything she is saying....As I was lost in thought I had stopped moving, what had happened? I guess she is probably saying something.

Even so, this woman is also a mystery. I assume she is a nanny because she is wearing maid clothes, but she actually seems to be giving me milk.....I really do not understand it.

“—?”

Oops, the maid had been worriedly watching me. So, I move my head in a slight thank you motion.

“A!~?”

「~~~~~！」

— Uwappu! Uh? Hey maid-san (temporary)! Stop pressing my head so suddenly against your huge breast! The size of my head is so small that I will suffocate!

As I desperately began flapping my hands and feet, the maid, who finally, noticed the state of me released me in a panic.

Ha ha, I was saved. Even though it took so much effort for me to be reborn, I was almost smothered to death in this women's chest.

I could see maid-san think to herself that she should be more careful, for some reason maid-san begins to look happy and then she hugged me.

Well, it seems I am unable to make an expression with my face to show my displeasure. It is inconvenient if I do not secure a method of communication soon.

...OK, my future plans have been decided for now.

To learn where I am located, first of all, I need to learn the language of this country – that's right. I'll start by learning my name and the name of the maid.

Four years have passed since I was born.

By the way, I think that years are not counted and remembered dates, but because they gave me a celebration for my 4th birthday, I think that it has been that long. There are four seasons in a year, one year seems to be twelve months, but I have not confirmed if the amount of time in one day or number of days in a year is the same as Earth.

Anyway, I was finally able to master the language of this country.

Either because of the flexibility of the baby's brain, or because I retained memories from my previous life, I was able to absorb new information like a sponge soaking up water.



Nevertheless, it was due to the environment surrounding me that caused me to take as long as a common baby to learn the language.

I seem to be isolated from the rest of the house. Maid-san, whose name is Milli, is the only person who speaks to me. Even though I saw people other than Milli, only a reserved maid who brings supplies and a father who only showed up once. With these circumstances, I had a lot of hardships to learn the language.

It seems that the reason for my isolation is in my birth.

My name is Lion Grances. Though it may sound nice being the second son of the Grances Earl, my mother is a woman who became the lover of a nobleman – in other words I am a child of my father's mistress.

So, as a result of the legal wife Caroline's emergence, I'm isolated at a distance – and, well, I only learned of this information through a brief talk from my father who only came to see me once.

This is what I expect caused my isolation.....Only one child will be able to succeed the Earl of Grances. If I were a woman, there would have been no problem, but as a man there is the possibility of threatening the status of the son of the legal wife.

By the way, I wonder if as an extension of this, I have no way to contact the outside world other than Milli. I do not have ambition to succeed and to become Count, but I just want to take up the opportunity to learn about this world.

I have not yet decided on a concrete plan for living freely and being happy, but I want at least a minimum amount of knowledge either way. To that end, the current environment is of no use. This environment is indeed a bad thing, it seems hard to believe that for four years I did not notice the fact that this place is somewhere other than Earth – perhaps it is a different world.

Well, when I looked up outside the window at night, I saw a blue moon and I was seriously scared! I understood that this place was not Japan, because nobody spoke Japanese, but I thought that it was somewhere on Earth.

However, there were several hints like this if I think about it now.

For example, this house is decorated with gold, and a lot of money is spent on the decorations. However, the bed is hard and the clothing is uncomfortable. At first I thought that I had been given cheap clothing because I was a child of a mistress, but my father's clothing was using a fabric similar to my clothing.

I wondered how we had money, but cheap clothing. I could not understand it knowing that this is a different world. In other words, the low quality is not due to it being cheap, but because of the inferior technology of this world.

The time period is probably around medieval Europe? There is a possibility that the imported goods of other countries can not be obtained at all, but whichever it is, it is an environment which isn't seen much on Earth either way.

That's why my recent daily routine is gathering information while exploring outside of my room.....

“Lion-sama, you came out of the room again, what are you looking for?”

Along with this voice, I was hugged for a while from behind. I am unable to resist so, I will be brought back to the room.

“Uu, I wanted to go look around a bit more”

“It is nice that you have a strong curiosity, but you must not go out alone.”

“I’m sorry, Milli.”

I apologize obediently. Because in the past I selfishly wanted to leave the room and blamed Milli for confining me. Which made Milli cry endlessly. Although, Milli didn’t mean any harm she apologized profusely to me “I’m sorry, I am sorry for causing inconvenience,” she was crying while hugging me.

When I think of the guilt I felt at that time ... .... Uu, I just started to feel pain.

“Lion-sama?”

“Uu, it’s nothing,”

“Is that true? Well then, will you promise not to leave your room without permission?”

“.....”

I turn silently away from Milli.

“.....Do you promise me, Lion-sama?”

Ugh. It is sneaky of her to use such a lonesome look on her face. I will not be defeated, I will look back at her with the eyes of an abandoned baby!

“Mou, you can’t look at me with such eyes, I will not forgive you until you promise me.”

Is that so? At first just this could easily deceive her. Somehow, I feel like Milli is getting stronger day by day.

“Lion-sama?”

“...I was found out.... I won’t explore away from Milli any more.”

“Really?”

“Yeah, I promise, instead, Milli I’ll talk with you?”

“As much as you want, I am the maid of Lion-sama, Oh, but it’s time to take a nap soon, so is that all for now?”

“Yeah, that’s all.”

When I lie down on my bed, Milli snuggles up to lie by my side. This has become a familiar scene following lunch recently.

Milli is close enough to reflect my face in her purple eyes. I should be embarrassed by this, if I think about my mental age, but I never once thought of it in that way. Well, she is like a parent to me. It would be something similar to wiping Saya's body while she was hospitalized but not feeling anything.

"So, what kind of story do you want to hear today?"

"Hmm ~ well... I want to hear Milli's story today."

"My story, huh?"

"Milli is a maid serving the house, why were you assigned to take care of me?"

I was destined to be isolated for my life before I was born. In other words, my defeat had been decided from the beginning in the power struggle of the Grances family.

Nobody wants to be a caretaker of such a child. So I thought that Milli was pressed into doing it for some reason.....

"I volunteered to do it"

"... Eh ... is that so?"

Milli's answer was past my expectations.



“What is that reaction ... Do you think I was reluctant to take care of Lion-sama?”

“I could not see it before, but I think that Milli is excellent and seems to have a big heart.”

“Lion-sama.....”

To my remarks, which are unlike any a child should make, Milli rounds her eyes. However, she then showed a gentle smile for a brief moment.

“I know that Lion-sama feels uneasy, but I am always a friend of Lion-sama.”

“... If that is true, will you answer my question?”

“Yes, of course.”

“If I may ask, why did Milli feed me milk?”

I asked the question which had been on my mind for a while.

It's common knowledge that I know, milk only comes out of women who bore children. I do not know if that same common sense will hold true in this world, but ... I see Milli's reaction.

Milli had a look that was full of amusement, surprise, and sorrow.

“..... Lion-sama, how do you know about that?”

“Back to my question, please answer it for me, Milli is probably my-”

“No, that is not the case.”

Is she not my mother? She had denied the question before I even finished asking.

“I just gave birth to a child.”

“Well, but then, where is that child?”

I casually mouth the question, I cursed my own shallowness. Milli’s well formed face was distorted by sorrow.

Is that so ...? I wished Milli were my –

“-You’re wrong. I am indebted to your father, Robert, very much, so I thought of taking care of Lion-sama on my own. I’m not doing this to distract myself from the grief.”

Milli smiled gently, as to reassure me and give me peace of mind. She embraced me and her heart beat was transmitted to me, as if to get rid of any of my concerns.

“.....I am sorry, asking about such sad things”

“I do not mind, because it is impossible for Lion-sama to feel comfortable being trapped in such a place.”

Milli says so and takes a breath. But, continued with a gentle tone.

“At any time, I am always on the side of Lion-sama, please do not forget it.”

“Milly ..... Thank you”

While I feel Milli’s gentle heart beat, I slowly close my eyes.

After I closed my eyes, Milli began singing lullabies. In a gentle tone that reassures me who is listening. I feel a sense of relief that I haven’t felt since I lost my family. It’s different from what I thought it would be like, but I feel happy spending time calmly like this. I drift off into sleep thinking this.

“I will stay by your side until the day Lion-sama is married.”

Milli, who had stopped the lullaby, dropped a bomb.

# Chapter 1-2: Exhausting days

“- Milli, what is that supposed to mean?”

“..... Oh, Leon-sama? Weren't you sleeping!?”

“I woke up after hearing Milli's words. So what does that mean? Did you say until I get married? ”

“Well, that is...um ...ah, well, it's no good talking about such things, if you do not get a proper amount of sleep, you won't grow up to be big and strong.”

“- Milli, please do not try to avoid answering my question.”

I moved out of Milli's embrace and stopped my childish way of speaking. I gazed straight into her eyes.

“I want to live my life happily. So please tell me if there is something that threatens my life, besides being trapped in this building.”

“.....Leon-sama?”

“What is it, you look like you just saw a ghost?”

“... It’s like you are from the ‘elf’ tribe, I could tell from the time you were born, that Leon-sama seemed to be much older than you appear.”

“Does this ‘elf’ tribe have long ears and longevity?”

“Ah, I don’t know much about them.....The stories are just legends passed down.”

“Ah, well”

Because the language is different, elf in Japanese does not mean the same thing in this world, but I was able to correctly guess based off of the flow of the conversation. So, there are elves in this world too.

“Anyway, can you answer my question from a little while ago?”

“That is.....”

“It’s okay to tell me the truth, I’m more likely to imagine something much worse on my own, don’t worry I won’t be upset...Though you may not trust telling a child about it.”

“No, how to say it...It seems more and more doubtful that Leon-sama is a child, actually it’s not out of the question to assume you are even ten years old?”

‘Sorry, Milli, I am actually about 20 years old’ – since I can’t say that, I let out a bitter smile.



Milli looked at me as she was swinging her body back and forth, and she seemed to be thinking something, but eventually she let out a small sigh.

“... It’s not a pleasant story, do you still want to hear it?”

“Yes, I’d still like to hear it.”

“An immediate response, I can see you’re ready for an answer..... Where should I start from?”

“From where, what do you mean?”

“You seem to have noticed that you are kept isolated in this room, do you know the reason?”

“Yeah, my father apologized a lot when he visited, because I am a child of his mistress, so Caroline is wary of whether or not I will try to threaten her son’s position, right?”

“Well, that’s right.”

“Well then, is the marriage meant to drive me out of the Grances family?”

“Yes, that is the reason .... Although there are other reasons for marriage in politics. I think there is a strong chance that is the main reason...I’m surprised that you can understand all the circumstances.”

I let out a sigh at Milli's admiration of me for what seems like the millionth time. Is it my imagination or have her looks of surprise developed into amazement?

..... But will I be forced into this marriage? Even though I have been imprisoned, and felt crippled, I was determined to decide my marriage partner.

...No, wait? Even if I stay in the Grances family, as it is, we would be kept by ourselves away from anyone else, will my environment improve depending on the partner I choose?

"Wait, Milli, how is my marriage partner selected?"

"...Um... Well ... Roughly speaking, would it not be the person most convenient for the Grances family?"

"How exactly is a partner convenient?"

"I think the partner will come from a house with power and money, so I think a family that has no trouble feeding themselves and not one troubled by demons."

.....So there are monsters in this world. Perhaps it is a fantasy world of magic and swords? I am a little worried.....But, for the moment I will ask about marriage.

"The standing of a family takes priority....Is it a possibility that there's a lady

who likes children...?”

Words like shotacon floated through my mind. On the other hand, Milli turned away from me murmuring.

“That may be a possibility.”

“Wow....”

Well, my mental age is over 20 years old, but my physique would appear to be much younger than my marriage partner.....No, there would be considerable resistance.

“It’s okay, Leon-sama! There was also a daughter born to the Sfir family that is making friends with the Grances family, and that child may be chosen as your partner!”

“Huh, there is such a child?”

“Yes, three years younger than Leon-sama, she is described as having the appearance of an angel.”

“Angel.....huh?”

“Oh, are you not that interested? ..... Ah, that’s right, Leon-sama is still young and isn’t very interested in the opposite sex.”

“No.....Well, I wonder?”

I just thought it was common for people to describe a baby as an angel. It is troublesome to think that I should not be interested in the opposite sex at this age, so I vaguely nod to Milli.

But...three years younger. Speaking of three years younger, that is the same age difference as Saya. I hadn't thought about it, but it is possible that Saya was reborn into this world –

Even if she were, she wouldn't still be three years younger. I lived for a little over a year fighting the illness after Saya died, so if she were born again I should be one year younger than her.

“Hey Milli, do I have any sisters...?”

“Do you?”

“That's right. Such a thing.....does it exist?”

“Yes...Leon-sama has a half-brother, but you also have a sister that is one year older.”

“..... Eh, seriously?”

No way no no no no no no no no no no no no— There should not be such a convenient story. However, it is a possibility....It's making me very interested.

” My older sister, what is her name?”

“Claire Ridill-sama”

“Claire Ridill.....am I not able to meet her...?”

“That is.....I’m sorry for saying anything.”

“Ah, I see.”

My elder sister – that is, the daughter of the legal wife who isolated me. She can not have a good impression of me. I’d like to meet up someday, but...after hearing Milli’s response I guess the chances are slim.

“I’m sorry I am unable to do anything, and I only just said I’d help you, as Leon-sama’s friend”

“No, it can’t be helped.”

“Thank you for saying so...I’m starting to have trouble telling which one of us is the adult. Was there anything else you’d like to ask about?”

“Ah ~ I see.....Ah, You mentioned elves a while ago-are there any around here?”

“Basically elves are a race that do not come out of the forest, but there are



stories of an elf who is living with people. I am not sure if there are any living near here.”

I see. So the elves in this country are pretty rare? The image she described is similar to the elves I know from my world.

“Then can they, by any chance, use magic.....?”

“Elves seem to mainly use spirit magic.”

“Oooo.....what do you mean, are there other types of magic?”

“Er.....Other things are black magic, white magic, and inscription magic.”

“Hmph, I have a feeling that black and white are attack and recovery respectfully”

“..... Yes they are, but how do you know that?”

“Ah...well...never mind that. What is inscription magic exactly?”

“Inscription magic is a magic in which the user engraves marks on an item or surface; these marks can continuously cause various effects”

Continuously, huh?...is it like a so-called magic item? This sounds interesting, I'd like to try one out.

“Hey, Milli can you use magic.....”

“I am very sorry, I have not had the opportunity to learn magic”

“Oh...okay, then are there any books related to magic?”

“That is.....to say”

“Ah...maybe, you were told to not give me an education?”

“..... Yes, so I can teach you only what I know, but I think it would be difficult to get any books.”

Kuuu, I was afraid that this might be the case.

I was reincarnated in a different world, the things I want to do have increased, but I am unable to achieve anything while I’m confined to this room. Please let me activate some sort of internal cheat for my life.

Haa.....I wonder if I can really live freely and be happy in this environment.

The future seems like it will be full of troubles.

# Chapter 1-3: New encounter

Two more years have passed since then, I turned six years old as summer arrived.

During those two years the only thing that changed is that my body has grown. The surrounding environment has had no major change at all.

As before, we were unable to get any books, and Milli is still the only person I am able to speak with. Recently it's begun to seem as if Milli and I are the only people in this world.

Of course, Milli has tried to teach me everything she knows, such as general education, the geography of the surroundings, and difficult words, but I have almost learned everything she can teach me in just two years.

Because he was reincarnated in a different world with magic, he doubled in power through the combination of science and magic! I would like to have tried something like that.

The partner of my marriage of convenience will greatly affect my future....In the worst case, I think that I should throw away my family name and run away. Of course, if she would follow me, I'd take Milli as well.

For that reason – I do not let the days go to waste and recently it has become a routine to train my body.

I am not aiming to become completely ripped, so I will just try to tone my body. So the training routine consists of push ups, training my abdominal muscles, running laps around the interior of my building, *etc.*

And today, as usual I ran around inside of the building I was confined to, suddenly, I could hear a sobbing voice coming from somewhere nearby.

“.....Is that the voice of a girl?”

Wow, it has been a long time since I heard a voice other than Milli's, I can't even tell if that really is the voice of a girl. Am I okay, have I started to develop some sort of disability?

While I am deep in thought, the sobbing voice can be heard the entire time. It's coming from somewhere nearby, but is it from outside of the room...?

.....It is useless. It will definitely be troublesome if I leave the room. It will definitely be annoying to Milli.

I decide to ignore the crying and walk away – I turn on my heel and take one step.

But, the crying voice is so full of sadness it's impossible to ignore....

Ah, I've already started thinking of Saya when we lost our parents. It is useless, I would regret it forever if I ignored it now.

I guess it can't be helped. If I get into any trouble, I'll go apologize profusely to Milli afterwards.

Shrubbery surrounded the room I had been staying in. After I moved past the shrubs I could see a girl crying under a big tree with her arms holding her knees to her chest.

..... Why is she crying? Or rather, how can I talk to her?

How about...Hello? No, that's not the best thing to say when someone is crying. Well then...do not cry? Well, if I did that suddenly I'd appear suspicious to the girl.

.....Ah geeze! Even if I waste time thinking about it there's one clear option. I'll just act like I am a curious child.

"Why are you crying?"

"- Who's there!?"

The girl lifted her face as I approached. I was left breathless after seeing her face.

She had a small face framed by platinum blonde hair which hung in loose waves past her shoulders, she had well-proportioned features, including her eyes of jade.

A girl, as beautiful as a porcelain doll, sat crying in front of me.

“.....Who are you? What are you doing in a place like this?”

“I am sorry I surprised you, I could hear crying nearby, I was worried and came to see what was the matter.”

The moment I answered, the girl hurriedly wiped away her tears with the edge of her sleeves.

“I’m...I’m fine, nothing’s wrong”

“Ah, I wish I could believe that...”

I can tell she’s strong, shy, and chooses to hide her true feelings, but I’m used to this because Saya was also a stubborn girl. To avoid hurting the girl’s pride I avoided the subject.

I turn my eyes to look at her knee which had become visible just past the hem of her skirt.

“Is your knee injured?”

“.....Eh? It is, it must have happened when I fell down earlier.”

Even though she was just crying....She’s still trying to hide it. That’s her hardcore stubbornness showing.

Please, it's not like I'm going to be impressed by your stubbornness. She must have tripped on a patch of rough ground or loose soil. Bacteria may get into her wound if it's left like this.

"For now, can you show me your leg?"

"Show you my leg...? What are you planning on doing to me?"

The girl saw where my eyes were looking and quickly closed her legs and pulled the hem of her skirt down. Even though she's such a young girl, she is acting like a proper lady. Something like this is pleasing to look at from time to time.

"What are you smiling about? Ah, so you are planning on doing strange things to me?!"

"I'm sorry, it was a misunderstanding, I was just trying to get a look at your wound, it needs to be treated."

"Treated? I don't need anything like that, if it's just about this injury, it will heal quickly if it's left alone."

The girl removes the soil from her wound by hand.....really, just that much?

"Won't it become infected if it's left like that?"

"Huh.....what is that?"

“Well, germs may get in and cause inflammation.....this will cause the wounds to become more severe or possibly cause scarring.”

The girl is beginning to seem more and more puzzled, and I can tell she can only come to one conclusion. At that moment she began to move her eyes uneasily.

“.....Will it really be that bad?”

“Well, even in the worst case scenario it would only leave a little scarring, but it’s such a beautiful leg, so isn’t it a waste to leave even a small scar?”

“Wha-wha-wha-what did you just say?!”

“Huh, did I say something strange?”

“You say weird stuff like I’m beautiful a little while ago.....—it’s nothing!”

“.....huh?”

So this is about me saying her leg is beautiful....Well good. I wasn’t lying, her figure would be good enough to be a child model for the cover of a magazine.

“Well, then what should I do?”

“Eh, how to debut as a child model?”



“.....Child model? What is that?”

“Eh, sorry, sorry. I can just quickly treat the wound. I think it will be fine if I just clean it out.”

“Clean it...how can you do that without any water?”

“If it’s just water, I have some.”

That is, I took out a small water bottle I had made using bamboo. I carried it around while running, but it seemed useful in surprising places.

“So, will you show me the wound?”

“Okay, I understand. But, I will not forgive you if you do any strange things!”

“I promise you, okay?”

I look straight into the girl’s eyes. Still she seemed a bit worried, but eventually she lifted her skirt a bit and showed me her knee.

Wow. A blonde, beautiful girl rolling up her skirt while revealing an embarrassing expression....I felt like I was seeing something wrong.

Why am I thinking about stupid things? She trusted me and put out her leg, I will finish the treatment quickly.

“Please, hold still.”

I clean the wound lightly while paying attention so as to avoid getting her skirt wet.

“.....”

“Okay, let it soak for a little while.”

“...You’re taking too long!”

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry”

That reminds me, she started crying because she fell down. So, is she close to crying again? When I looked up at the girl’s face, our eyes met each other.

“.....What?”

“No, that.....I was just wondering if you were okay”

“I was a little surprised, but I didn’t even notice the pain.”

“Ah, of course not.”

She seems like a very obstinate person. Maybe she doesn’t want to complain to a person she only just met.

“... I'll only tell you this once, I was not crying. Understand?

“Yes, I get it.”

“You're wrong, you're absolutely misunderstanding.”

“It's fine, I won't tell anyone.”

“Hey, you're still misunderstanding me! I wasn't crying because I fell down!”

“...Well, that means you were crying for some other reason?”

“I've been saying that for a while now!”

This girl acts miserably when answering—but,

“I'm not trying to hide the fact that I was crying, okay?”

“.....I see...but it's easy for me to misunderstand... I am looking at you crying near the place that you fell down...it's a given that I would assume as much.”

Oh, I've made her start sulking. She looks cute scowling at me like this-not-but somehow I could understand the girl's complaint.

In other words, it means that there was something sad that made her cry, is

that it?

“If you’d like can you talk about it?”

“.....Eh?”

“There was something painful that made you cry, don’t you want to talk about it with someone?”

“That is.....”

At my question, the girl got silent and seemed lost in thought. If I were in her situation I’d like someone to talk to, but I guess her pride doesn’t allow her to talk with others about it.

It would be a lie if I said that I didn’t mind, but it is not good to force her to talk about it. So, I resume treatment on her knee as if nothing had happened.

I cleaned the wound and wrapped a handkerchief around it.

“Yes, this is fine, but get it treated properly when you return home.”

I say so and look at the girl’s face. But, her face went stiff when our eyes met.

“.....is something wrong?”

“Eh? uh! It’s nothing!”

“Really? It looks like your face is red.”

“- Never mind! Thank you for taking care of me, thank you.”

“Don’t worry about it.”

“My name is Claire Ridill, Claire Ridill Grances, I want to thank you properly, so can you tell me your name?”

“.....Grances?”

Ah...so she is? Because it was a girl a little older than myself I thought it possible, but she is my older sister.

I thought that I would like to see her someday, but...I did not expect to see her so soon. What should I do? My heart isn’t ready for this.

“What’s wrong?”

“Er, that.....You have already thanked me, so it isn’t necessary for you to do it again.”

“Do not worry about that, it is only natural for a lady to properly return the favor, so why won’t you tell me your name?”

“My name is.....that is...”

Oh damn it. It has come this far. There is no reason to lie or come up with a fake name. I'll introduce myself honestly, it is better than having the truth exposed later.

"My name is Leon."

"...Leon, is it?"

"I don't really know how to respond to that, but I think that is right."

"is that so....."

Claire Ridill makes a somewhat embarrassing expression, when I remember I have been told that her and I must not get along.

Who else would say something like this. It was Caroline, the mother of Claire Ridill.

I thought I would be able to talk with new people. Claire Ridill herself seems to not have a disgusting feeling towards me...I wonder if we can get along somehow?

I tried to think of a way for us to get along, but I quickly lost my chance. I heard a voice of a woman calling Claire's name from somewhere.

"Well then, I'll be going."

“Wait a moment, you didn’t finish your story yet.”

“I’m sorry...Actually I don’t want to leave, but it would be nice to keep it a secret that I was here.”

As soon as she said that, she immediately left this place. Shortly afterwards, Claire Ridill and the woman’s voice could be heard from nearby.

“Hah...that was close.”

If a maid found us together Caroline would certainly hear about it shortly afterward.

After hearing Claire Ridill speak to the maid the potential crisis left my mind – and I ran breathlessly to the safety of my building.

However——

“Leon-sama, where have you been?”

The greatest crisis has only just begun.

“Well, it’s not what it looks like, Milli, it’s a misunderstanding!”

“.....I haven’t even asked you anything yet.”

“Guu.....”

Oh my god, she's looking at me with such terrifying eyes. I have to come up with some excuse. Well, it is true that I broke my promise with Milli, so should I be honest here?

At least let me prepare my heart!

"It is unusual for Leon-sama to be so perturbed. Where in the world did you go? By all means, could you let me know?"

"Well, that is.....Milli is very important to me, so I do not want to say anything that may cause you trouble."

"I understand, so you went to a place that would bother me?"

"....."

No matter what I say, I feel like I'm digging my own grave. Let's honestly talk about it and I'll sincerely apologize to her. I don't want a repeat of the previous incident with Milli.

".....I understand the situation."

Milli finished listening and let out a small sigh. Then, Milli got down on her knees, so our eyes would be level. She suddenly raised her right hand.

She's going to slap me! I brace myself and close my eyes. However, the impact never came, instead her hand began to gently stroke my head.



“...Milli?”

I was surprised when I opened my eyes and I saw Milli’s loving expression.

“You really are an idiot, Leon-sama.”

“..... I know that, even without you saying it, but I can’t help it. I could not leave a girl crying all alone.”

“You’re even calling yourself an idiot, I can not scold Leon-sama who only acted to help a girl who was crying”

“.....Why? If I get caught sneaking out, Milli would be scolded, right?”

“Well....In the worst case, I may be fired.”

“Wow, wait a moment, would there really be such severe punishment!?”

“Unfortunately.....It is a possibility. But due to the circumstances this time, it should be fine. Even if it’s not okay, I hope they’d punish me in a more lenient way.”

“...Wow, I really am sorry.”

“It’s okay, there’s a possibility that Claire Ridill will be silent, isn’t there?”

“That.....Yeah, I think there is a possibility.”

I remember Claire Ridill’s parting words and respond like that.

However, I was not thinking about the possibility that Milli might be kicked out. If I knew there would be such serious consequences, I wouldn’t have risked it in the first place.....After having met Claire Ridill, I’m not sure I can say that.

I think that it was a mistake to inconvenience Milli, but I don’t think it was a mistake to help Claire Ridill, who was crying.

.....What should I do?

I fell silent worrying about this. Milli gently hugged my head.

“I told you beforehand, I am always by your side Leon-sama. If Leon-sama did the right thing and it will result in me being punished, I will gladly accept it.”

“..... Milli, I’m sorry.”

As Milli held me in her arms I swore to become strong. Not just to protect myself, but to protect the things most precious to me.

=====

*Just thought I’d add a small not here in case there is any confusion over the room/building Leon is confined to. I incorrectly translated this to just ‘room’ in the first chapter. A more accurate translation would be something like ‘detached room.’*

*The closest equivalent I can think of is a pool house. Just remove the pool and add more foliage. I considered calling it a guest house, but that sounds too accommodating considering Leon's situation. So, I've decided to just refer to it as 'building' from now on. If anyone can think of a better word please let me know.*

# Chapter 1-4: Are you interested in starting a relationship with your sister?

“If Leon-sama did the right thing and it will result in me being punished, I will gladly accept it.”

Milli said something to that extent-but no, I do not want her to be punished. I want Milli to stay by my side.

I strongly hope she can, but everything depends on the mood of Claire Ridill. I could not do anything while confined to this building. I could not do anything about it and this caused me to spend the next few days worrying endlessly.

Three days have passed. I began to think I had been worrying over nothing. When, as Milli and I sat alone drinking tea, one maid entered the room suddenly.

A maid with black hair and dark eyes whom I have never seen before.

“.....Who are you?”

Milli stood up from the chair and calmly positioned herself in front of me.

“I am sorry for the sudden visit. My name is Michelle; I am a maid for Claire Ridill.”

“What is it Michelle, what are you doing here? Aren’t any unauthorized people banned from entering this building?”

“That is true, but didn’t someone here break a different rule earlier?”

“... What could you possible mean by that?”

“Do not be alarmed, I only need to have a little chat with Leon-sama.”

“As I said earlier, this is not a place for unauthorized people to be, please make it quick.”

“- Milli, wait.”

I stand up out of my chair and pull on Milli’s sleeve.

“.....Leon-sama?”

“I’m sorry, Milli, I’d like to talk with her.”

“But.....I understand, if Leon-sama says so, I will not say anything.”

Milli moved to my side so I could face the maid called Michelle.

“You are Leon-sama, correct?”

“That’s right, I heard you say you are Claire Ridill’s maid, what kind of business do you have here?”

It doesn’t seem like Michelle is here on Caroline’s orders. Which means this is not the worst case scenario, but...It is not possible to predict the real reason because the emotions on Michelle’s face keep changing rapidly.

I prepared myself, so as to show no emotions when Michelle revealed her reasoning for being here.

“May I ask you a question before telling you why I’m here?”

“Okay, but...what?”

“Are you interested in your sister?”

“... ..? I’m sorry, it seems I misheard you, so could you ask that again?”

“Once again, are you interested in having a relationship with your sister?”

“I still don’t understand your meaning.”

“A relationship between brother and sister—That is are you interested in a sexual relationship with your sister?”

“I know the meaning of your words, what I meant was I don’t understand why you are suddenly asking about that! Why are you bringing something like that up to a child!?”

“Is it really that strange a topic for a child? It is certainly rare among commoners, but there are cases from time-to-time among the aristocracy.”

“...is that so?”

Truly this is a different world ... No, I guess it isn’t so strange considering the cultural level of this world. It would have been a common occurrence during the medieval time period.

“Did you not know, Leon-sama?”

“A child my age shouldn’t know about stuff like that, right?”

“To that extent, do you understand the meaning of that kind of relationship?”

“- Buuu!” (TN: Just for anyone interested Google Chrome auto-translated this as bukkake. Soooo...this story could have taken a weird turn.)

“Besides, from what I heard from Claire-sama, I was skeptical, but you supposedly have a strangely mature way of talking?”

“That is....”

I see. Recently, I have not been conscious of how I speak because I only speak with Milli.

If the fact that I'm not just an ordinary child reaches Caroline's ears, I'm sure she would be determined to make my life difficult. It is something I want to avoid anyhow.....

"There's no need to make such a face, anything we talk about will stay in this room, so it's okay."

"...What do you mean by that?"

"The events of the other day have not been reported to Caroline, and that means I do not intend to talk about this conversation."

"Do you really think I would trust you?"

"I take it you've noticed that nothing has happened over the past three days?"

".....that's true."

If Caroline had heard about what happened she would have already taken action. It is evidence that Claire Ridill has been silent this entire time.

"I see, so you waited this long on purpose to prove you can be trusted."



“... It really is amazing that your understanding reaches that far, I thought that Claire-sama was very mature for her age..... I’m honestly doubting that you really are a child.”

“Leon-sama is very intelligent.”

Milli proudly says, but in reality I have about 19 years from my previous life, plus another 6 years of life experience in this world.

If I were actually twenty-five years old, I’d feel that I should have more knowledge than I currently do...No, no no, I only know this little because I’ve been restricted from studying properly.

.....is it night already? I was too deep in thought and the color of the sky had changed. Fortunately, Michelle seems to have remained silent this entire time. Now, lets try to do something to get her on my side.

“While, I feel that that this is not such an amazingly high level of intelligence.....Well Leon-sama is a human being so there is no doubt you may even be a so-called genius.”

No, just someone who has been reincarnated – I couldn’t even say it if I ripped my mouth open, so I just feigned ignorance.

“I know that you and Claire have been silent, but what is your real reason here?”

“Would you like to answer my earlier question before I answer that?”

“Your earlier question?”

” Are you interested in starting a relationship with your sister?”

“..... so you were serious earlier?”

“Of course I am serious, so do you have any interest in something like that?”

“That’s impossible, I never even considered something like that.”

“If you have not thought about it yet, there is the possibility that you may consider something like that in the future.....”

“No, there is no chance that will happen.”

I spent my entire previous life supporting Saya. From the outside it may have seemed like we were as close as a couple, but the only love there was familial love.

Therefore, I can’t even imagine having a relationship like that with my sister.

“.....Really? Then, I understand.”

“I’m afraid you’ve really understood nothing at all.”

I throw out some sarcasm, but Michelle has a pleasant face on, seemingly convinced she knows my true intentions. Seriously, I do not know what she is thinking, this person.

“Anyway, will you tell me what other reason you had for coming here?”

“Oh, yes, first I’d like to thank you for the other day.”

“Are you thanking me for treating Claire’s wound?”

“Yes, ojou-sama can be quite obstinate, so you were very helpful. So how on earth did you persuade her?”

“It wasn’t particularly anything amazing, I just told her that if germs enter the wound it may become infected.”

“...Eh? What is that?”

I thought Claire Ridill didn’t understand because she was a child, but is the medical level of this world really that low? That would explain why everyone seems confused when I mention germs or bacteria.

“Well, you know that the wound may become infected, right?”

“Yes, I know that much, but...”

“The cause of that is the germs.”

“.....In other words, in order to prevent infection, we should prevent the germs from entering the wound?”

“Or, you can wash away the germs with clean water.”

“Well.....I heard that there is a custom, when injured, to wash scratches out with alcohol, is this also for the same reason?”

.....A custom....Do the people of this world only have an understanding of sickness and disease to that extent? It seems that the medical knowledge of this world is lower than I thought. I must be careful not to get sick or injured badly.

“Er.....The reason is the same, but it’s better not to use alcohol.”

“Is that so?”

“Yeah, it’s ideal to wash it with clean water, preferably water with no salt in it, which seems to heal the wound quickly if you wet the wound gently to clean it and do not let it dry.”

Even on Earth this fact has only become known recently, it is unlikely that people in this world would know this much, but when you disinfect or dry the wound it causes it to heal slower.

“Thank you for telling me this valuable information.”

“Don’t worry, it’s really not a big deal.”

“The knowledge itself may not be a big deal, it is more so a matter of how you came to know of this...but I feel it’s better not to ask where you learned this from.”

“I would appreciate that.”

“I understand, now, all that’s left is that final matter -”

“Hey, Michelle, how long are you going to keep me waiting?”

The door opens and cuts off Michelle’s words, and silver hair gently entered the room.

“.....Ojou-sama, please wait outside until I call you.”

“Michelle worries too much, Leon said I can trust him.”

Claire’s unhappy voice is directed towards Michelle. The long silver hair belonged to Claire Ridill.

“.....You came too?”

“Well, I came.”

“No. No, ‘I came’, Caroline doesn’t want us to get along, is it okay for you to be visiting me like this?”

“Hmmm I wonder.....Mother would probably get very angry if she knew. So, if you want me to keep silent and you are threatened by mother, maybe you can’t defy anything that I say?”

“I understand what you’re trying to get at, but you must not say stuff like that to me, okay?”

“Iyaaa, could my brother be threatening me?”

“No, I would never do something like that. No matter how you look at it you speak too frankly, could you show a little sense of urgency—”

“You see, Michelle, you heard that, right?”

Claire Ridill still fails to hear any of my words and she turned toward Michelle with a big smile on her face.

“Yes, Leon-sama is certainly a person who appears to be trustworthy, but Ojou-sama, please show a little more caution. Was there anything else Ojou-sama, it’s getting late we should be going back, right?”

“See, Michelle worries too much. Hey, don’t you think so too Leon?”

“No, I think it would be better to remain a little cautious as well.”

“How can my otouto-kun, who sneaked away from his confinement to help a girl he didn’t even know, say that?”

“Muu, it sounds strange to ask, but did you just say otouto-kun?”

I can see a pattern forming here.

“Because you and I are related by blood, right?”

“Certainly we are half connected by blood, but ...”

“So, I am your onee-chan and you are my otouto.”

“No, I understand the logic, but what if Caroline hears you say that?”

If we were to get involved with each other it could be very dangerous. Although I do not mind getting the little brother treatment from Claire. Yet, I’m still worried if it is alright for me to act like a younger brother.

“It should be fine. Even though I look young, I have a good eye for people I can trust.”

“That’s because there are only trustworthy people in this room, but what about any other people that may hear you? If you go around trusting everyone you’re bound to get hurt.”

Claire is still only seven years old. It’s likely that she hasn’t experienced the real world yet and she has only been surrounded by people that either work for, or are trying to get close to, the Grances family. So, I think with her situation it would be hard to find someone she could truly trust –

“Well, there is no one else that I trust, except Michelle you are the first.”

“.....Is that so?”

“Most of the people around me just try to use me.”

“Really?”

When I looked to Michelle for confirmation, she made a small nod.

“That is.....well, it sounds like quite a tough environment.”

“Right? I hate it, just the other day a partner for my marriage had been decided without my permission.”

Oh, is that why she was crying at that time?

Even I, with the mental age of a 26 year old would feel hopeless. As a seven-year old girl, there is really nothing you can do but cry.

“It sounds tough.”

“It will be the same for you.”

.....I see. If I think like that I feel sympathy for her, with our circumstances we



are likely to be used as tools for marriage.

“I understood that you trust me, but why did you come here, Claire Ridill?”

When asked, Claire Ridill suddenly puffed out her cheeks.

“Mo ~ It’s not Claire Ridill, why do you call me by my name? It’s Claire onee-chan, right?”

“Kuu, Claire onee-chan? It is a little embarrassing.”

“Eh~ Why?”

Why? ‘It’s because I am older than you’ – not like I can actually say that.

“Umm..Is just Claire enough?”

“Claire?”

“Yeah, I shorten Claire onee-chan to just Claire,.....is that no good?”

“Oh no, it’s not that it’s bad, can you say it one more time?”

“Claire.”

“Again!”

“.....Claire?”

“..... Yeah! I love it, it’s amazing. Hehehe, Claire~”

Claire throws both of her hands in the air and twists around as if to start dancing. I think she has some places that have grown quite well. These places will be something to look forward to in the years to come.

It would usually seem a bit strange to start bouncing around like that, but maybe because she fits so well with the surrounding environment, it doesn’t seem strange at all. I wonder if this is the real Claire.

“So what’s your business here Claire?”

“.....Business? I don’t have anything like that, I just came out to find otoutokun, I did not get a chance to properly thank you before.”

“Thank you, but I told you I didn’t need any thanks for helping you.”

“Why, did you not want me to come see you?”

“That is....”

Someone I thought may hate me actually wanted to meet with me. It makes me very happy.

However....

“Are you alright? Will you get in trouble if Caroline finds out?”

“I’m fine. Nothing that you need to be concerned about, but you have done what you came to do, you’ve returned your gratitude properly.”

“Are you just trying to get me to leave?”

“Claire-sama always has this suspicion.”

Oh, I think I understand.

Well, I wonder if Claire is okay. I don’t think that Milli will get into trouble if Claire has just come here to play..... Is it okay if she hangs around?

I was a little worried and glanced toward Milli, she nodded. Huh, I can’t tell if she’s saying it’s okay or not, but I guess it should be fine.

I’m not too sure, but I’d like to talk more with Claire either way. I’ll try to not rely too much on Milli.

“I’m happy you came to see me Claire.”

After remaining quiet for a long period of time, Claire’s face brightened at my answer.

“Okay then otouto-kun, ask me something. I will tell you about anything you’d like to know.”

“Well, if that is the case, would you tell me about the plants in this world?”

“.....Plants? Sure, but...what plants do you want to know?”

“Okay, for example – -”

Thus Claire’s knowledge was like a single stone thrown into the quiet ocean of my mind.

The ripple born from that stone eventually becomes a huge wave, causing several incidents....I, of course, had no idea about this at the time.

# Chapter 1-5: A shadow creeps in on my peaceful daily life

Then, two and a half years passed. I turned eight as winter arrived, but I still remain confined and I spend everyday the same way as always.

However, there has been one small change.

That is—

“Otouto-kun, I came to play again!”

And that, is that Claire has continued to come to play ever since that day.

When Claire came into the living room, she sat down next to me in what was becoming her designated seat.

Her wavy, platinum blonde hair gently shakes as she sits next to me, and her smell of citrus fills the room.

“Claire-sama, welcome. Would you like a cup of warm tea?”

“Yes, that sounds good. Milli-san, thank you as always.”

“No, please, I do not mind.”

Milli leaves the room to make tea.

Claire, who I have seen most everyday recently, has grown quite a lot over the past two years. Although I remember my past life, it's hard to believe that I'm already nine years old again.

Well, anyway.

“Hey, hey, otouto-kun, otouto-kun, what kind of story do you want to hear today? I am studying properly recently and I can tell you about many things, what do you think?”

My sister acts the same as usual. Well it's not a bad feeling having my sister trying to bond with me...but I'll keep that a secret to myself.

“Otouto-kun, is there nothing you would like to ask?”

“Hmm let's see....Oh, that's right, have you heard of a bamboo-like plant that is a source of sugar?”

“Sugar cane, huh? I think there are plants like that, but is it really a source of sugar?”

“If it's like the plant I'm thinking of, then yes.”

Because the language in this world is different, the name is also completely different, but many of the plants in this world resemble those of Earth. So, it seems like the possibility of finding 'sugarcane' is high.

"Hmm? So what would you do if that 'sugarcane' were found?"

"Yeah, I thought about trying to make sweets."

"Sweets? If that's the case, why can't you use the sugar we already have here?"

"The climate here makes it difficult to cultivate sugar beets and the cost is too high if you rely on imports, only nobles are free to use the existing sugar."

"Well ...Then is it no good? Do you think mother would be angry if we used the sugar we already have?"

"Well, I doubt it with the small amount we would use."

Sugar is valuable in this region, so I think that mass production would be able to make money.

When I say money, it may seem materialistic, but that is why it can be used in negotiation with the Grances family. In other words, I think that money can buy my freedom.

"Achoo~~"

Unexpectedly, Claire let out a pretty sneeze.

“Are you okay?”

“Yeah, thank you for your concern, recently it has gotten colder, maybe I caught a cold?”

“A cold isn’t good..... It seems that the winters in this area are quite dry. I’m worried it could be something like influenza, are you sure you’re okay?”

“...What is ‘influenza’?”

“Ah.....Something like a cold, but with worse symptoms?”

“Huh, is there such a thing?”

“Yes. Therefore, when sleeping, it is a good idea to leave a wet cloth in your room overnight.”(TN: No clue what this is supposed to do. Googled it and maybe has something to do with increasing the humidity level in the room. Ed: I just looked up Humidity vs the flu, and apparently increasing the humidity from 23% to 43% reduced the flu particles by around 60%, so it’s probably to increase the humidity.)

“Is that so? It must be, after all my otouto-kun is very knowledgeable, I will try it tonight, thank you.”

“Yeah, I’d like that.....Hey, Claire..You often come to visit, but won’t Caroline



become suspicious if you visit so frequently?”

“Hmm? Well, Mother has been really busy looking for a marriage partner for me recently.”

“.....Is it okay to say I am fine?”

“It’s not something that I want...But it’s a destiny I can not escape anyway, I’m just glad I’m fortunate enough to make time to meet with my otouto-kun.”

“A destiny you can’t escape, huh.....”

I have too become happy. Saya wished it for me in my previous life – it’s the least I can do for her. So, I began my pursuit for happiness.

Even after being reborn my desire to find happiness has not changed.

However-

In the first place – what even is happiness.

In this world there is neither a proper family register nor any form of personal identification. So it’s not impossible to escape from the Grances family by sneaking out of the mansion or even disguising myself.

For example, it could be a good idea to become a disciple of some merchant and live the rest of my life practicing that craft. That way, I’m sure I could spend

my days feeling fulfilled.

And, hopefully, Milli would be a part of that life.

But, it would be impossible to take Claire with me. There are so many people with her at all times, not to mention that she isn't allowed to leave the mansion grounds. If I was forced to leave Claire behind if I escape, I feel like I wouldn't be able to achieve my happiness.

Is everyone in the world happy – I would doubt as much. But at the very least, I want the people precious to me to be happy – but...

Maybe I could somehow manage to bring Milli. But, with me hidden away as a child of a mistress, Claire will be used as a tool for a political marriage. As for trying to save both, the risk would be much too high.

.....Seriously – I may have to try to aim for some kind of internal affairs cheat.

“Ah ~ Ah ...I wonder if I can choose whom I like as long as I agree to get married. I wish otouto-kun was a marriage partner.”

“.....Haa? What are you suddenly saying?”

“Well, otouto-kun is gentle and smart and you're training your body, right? You're also handsome and cool. So it would be nice if you were my marriage partner.”

“No, no, even if we are only half-siblings, you are undoubtedly my sister, are

you not?”

“Okay, I know that marriage with a family member isn’t looked at as being a good thing, but have you seen any of my other political marriage candidates?”

“No, but.....are they really that bad?”

“The most recent candidate introduced to me was a greasy, old man in his late thirties.”

“.....Ugh”

I thought that the candidates for her marriage couldn’t be that bad, but it was even worse than I imagined.

In my previous life I had occasionally heard of someone in their fifties marrying someone in their twenties, but.....A nine year old marrying a thirty nine year old in a loveless marriage – no matter what I can only think of it as a crime.

Her half-brother or a thirty year old man..... Which one is better? No, either way I do not intend to marry Claire.

But as her younger brother, I think I want to do something.

But, as I am now, I can not do anything – and my thoughts of helping Claire hit a dead end. Milli came back with a tray carrying tea as if she had been waiting for the right time to enter.

“Sorry for the wait.....is there something wrong?”

Milli, who had set the tea out for us, could sense the tense atmosphere and lightly tousled my hair; I tilted my head to the side to enjoy it. Claire attempted to change the topic.

“Uh, it’s nothing, Milli-san, what is this sticky thing?”

“This is a type of sweet that Leon-sama taught me how to make.”

Milli had made custard pudding, a type of heated pudding.

I also knew how to make the chilled type of pudding, but I am unable to make it because there are no refrigerators in this world.

“Somehow, it’s a bit scary that it’s all squishy and jiggly. Does something like this really taste good?”

“– Try it, I definitely think that Claire will like it.”

“O..Okay...if you say so...”

Claire’s takes a small bite of pudding, daring to put it in her mouth. The face that was full of suspicion and caution quickly melts.

“Wow ! Delicious! What is this, what is this, it’s so sweet and really delicious!”

She takes another bite, then two more, and soon Claire loses any elegance she had as she devours the pudding.

“Fuu .....Amazing... This is absolutely amazing, I’ve never had anything like it~”

Correction, there is not much left in Claire that would resemble a proper lady. Though, I’d say it’s pretty cute for her age.

“If you like it that much, would you like mine as well?”

“Is that okay? No, it’s yours.....It’s not okay for an older sister to take her younger brother’s sweets, right?”

Though Claire is saying that, her gaze is fixed on the pudding.

“Hmm maybe, if you act obediently.”

I smiled a little, mischievously, and took a spoonful of pudding and put it close to Claire’s face.

“Hey~~, you want this, right?”

“Well, that’s not true – umm, well ...”

Claire puffs out her cheeks. However—

“No matter how mean of a face you try to make, it doesn’t mean anything if you keep following the pudding with your eyes.”

“.....Otouto-kun is evil.”

“Well, why don’t you act a little more honest?”

“Hah, why would I want something like that? I don’t want it even a tiny bit!”

“Ah, is that so.”

I move the pudding slowly away from Claire’s face. The further away it gets the closer she seems to crying.

“Wait, I said wait...”

“Hmm? What?”

“Eh, it’s not that I want it, but if you say that you aren’t hungry, then I guess I have no choice but to take it.”

“Is that so? I don’t want to force you to take it either. So, if you ask me really nicely and say how much you want it, maybe I’ll consider giving it to you?”

“Uuu, otouto-kun is an idiot! I can’t say such an embarrassing thing!”

“So you aren’t willing to say something embarrassing for this? Or is it that you

really do not want it? If that's the case then I guess there's no choice."

I moved the spoonful of pudding slowly to my mouth—

"Okay, I'll say it! I'll admit it!.....I.....want...."

"Sorry, what did you say?"

"I want it, I want it! So, please! Please, please give it to me right now!"

Haha, finally you're honest. Well then—

"- Stop! Any further and you'll need the R15 tag!"

The doors burst open and Michelle came flying into the room. Then, she looked at me, who was teasing Claire with pudding, and her face hardened.

"...Leon-sama, what are you doing?"

"We..we were just trying to eat pudding..?"

"Otouto-kun, please hurry and give it to me know, I can't wait anymore."

"Yeah yeah, wait a moment."

I put a spoonful of pudding into Claire's mouth.

“Fuuwaa..... It’s shooo good!” (TN: So about that R15 tag...)(Ed: I, personally, am finding this hilarious)

Claire’s face melted again.

“... Well, Leon-sama? I will ask again, what are you doing?”

“I was just feeding Claire pudding.”

“.....Is that pudding laced with some kind of drug that causes dependency?”

“Drug that causes dependency?.....How could I have something like that?”

“But then, why is ojou-sama.....”

“No, I think she’s like that because the pudding is so delicious. Well, I also liked teasing her a bit.”

“Eh? Is that really the only thing?”

“It is true, but if you don’t believe me -“

I turn my eyes to Milli. It seems that the tea has finished being brewed .... Why does she look like she has a small smile on her face?



.....Well good.

“What do you think, Michelle?”

“- That’s good!”

Come to think of it, it was Claire that made the marriage proposal to me, I wonder if Michelle knows about Claire’s desire.

I’ll have to make sure to tell Claire not to overeat too much. Claire is as adorable as an angel now, but if she can’t stop eating pudding she’ll start to put on weight.

While thinking about that, Michelle, who was ignored by Claire, headed to the kitchen with Milli. Once again, the room became just two people, Claire and I.

“So, are you going to eat anymore, Claire?”

“Uuu, I’ve had enough already. Thank you for giving me some of yours, otouto-kun. Are you going to eat the rest?”

Now that Claire has finished she regains the composure of a proper lady.

“I see. Are you planning to have Michelle get more later?”

“Uuuu.....Otouto-kun is evil.”

Claire makes a cute expression as her face reddens and she diverts her gaze.

I was worried whether food from Earth would be accepted in this world, but it seems like I had nothing to fear. Later, it would be great if I can find a way to mass-produce things cheaply.

If I could find a way to mass-produce the pudding cheaply, and if it became a big hit, I might be able to win my freedom in exchange for the knowledge of how to make it.

At this time, I didn't notice the disaster waiting right around the corner.

—About one week later.

“Help me, otouto-kun! Michelle is.....Michelle is going to be killed!”

Claire burst into the living room with this message.

# Chapter 1-6: One way or another

On a certain day, about one week after the pudding incident, I sit on the sofa in the living room enjoying time with Milli after supper.

“Milli, thank you very much.”

“What’s the matter, saying that so suddenly.”

“No, sometimes I feel like I need to express my gratitude for you.”

We have been together everyday since I was born, Milli has been like a mother to me. If she had not been here, I would have spent most of these eight years alone.

“Leon-sama.....do you think it will rain tomorrow?”

“Eh – you’re terrible, I said I’m thankful for you, don’t you care about that?”

“I know, I’m joking.”

I may not be living my life freely, but calm days like this are nice. It was just as I was thinking this that it happened.

Suddenly the door to the room burst open and Claire came running in.

“Who is it.....Claire? What’s wrong?”

“Help me, otouto-kun! Michelle is.... Michelle is going to be killed!”

Claire ran to me and jumped into my chest.

“Going to be killed.....? Calm down, explain from the beginning, what happened.”

“I can’t remain calm! Michelle is going to be killed!”

“Claire!”

Claire is unable to focus, her platinum blond hair has become completely disheveled . Panicking, I firmly grasped both of Claire’s shoulders and yelled her name.

“Otouto....kun?”

“Okay, it’s okay Claire. No matter what it is, I’ll do anything I can to help. So please calm down and tell me what happened.”

“Really? Are you sure you can save Michelle?”

“Yes, it should be fine.”

I had no way of knowing if I could help or not, but I couldn't stand seeing Claire like this, so I said that it will be fine.

I'm not sure if it helped or not, but soon Claire seemed to regain her focus.

"..... Sorry, I..."

"Okay. So, there must be something that caused you so much distress, right? So please explain it to me."

"...Yes...Remember earlier, when you thought that more people would start to catch colds in the winter? It seems that it is more than just a cold, everyone has fallen ill with a high fever. People believe this must be due to God's anger and they're unsure of what to do with all of the sick people."

"They're deciding on whether or not to quarantine them?"

"No, there's no time left to quarantine, they think that it is better to start killing people before the disease spreads."

"—What?"

It's just as stupid as killing all the birds to stop bird flu – no, in this world with such a small amount of medical knowledge, maybe it seems like the only decision?

That may be the case.

There are similar cases in recent history on Earth, the Spanish flu for example. Even with the countermeasures of modern medicine the flu spread across the globe. The chances of containing the disease in this world seems low.

Whether I can convince people there is another way..... is another matter.

“So you’re saying Michelle may be killed because she has this flu?”

“Yeah, she suddenly developed a high fever yesterday and collapsed.”

“I see.....and what are her symptoms?”

“She had no appetite and felt exhausted all the time. She collapsed from her high fever and has been quarantined since.”

.....Quarantine, huh....When I think of how people would’ve been quarantined on Earth when it had the same medical knowledge as this world, it doesn’t leave a good impression in my mind....

“Tell me, are the sick being quarantined in a warm and humid room?”

“All of the sick are isolated in a warehouse outside of the mansion.”

....Like I thought. The sick are all servants of the nobles, if they were just common people they’d probably be treated more cruelly.

“So, what are the other symptoms? Does their skin become black, develop any rashes, or have severe diarrhea?”

“Well ... I haven’t heard about anyone with such symptoms, though other people in the province could have these symptoms and we may not know about it.”

I see. It doesn’t seem to be the black death, or a similar disease. Then, what disease could it be.....

“Well then—”

I kept asking as many questions as possible to, hopefully, determine the right disease.

As a result, the majority of patients have a short period of about two days from becoming infected to showing symptoms, when they suddenly generate a high fever. Furthermore, the symptoms are prolonged, the sick continuously have a cough and runny nose.

Also, I found that there was the feeling of being completely exhausted.

In addition, some people have already died, but some people have recovered. Many of the people who recovered are wealthy. The recovery seems to be due to the difference in living conditions.

After listening, the first thing I thought of was influenza.

For example, most people confuse influenza with a cold, but the other symptoms such as fever, whole body fatigue are unique to influenza. Besides, the amount of time the symptoms last are different from a cold.

To begin with, even if it is a cold, I don't understand how it could have become so widespread. And if it is just a widespread cold, it couldn't be more dangerous than influenza, so I can rule that out.

So the next one to worry about is SARS, it's supposedly easy to mistake for influenza.

I think that it's most likely something else if I consider the duration the sickness seems to last and the time from initial infection until the sick begin to show symptoms, but...I can not completely deny it because of the similarities.

And if it is SARS, it could be even more dangerous.

Given that 10% of the people infected with SARS on Earth died, I can not imagine how many people may die in this world.

However, this is just in one case. In Japan, for example, nearly 30% of all people diagnosed with SARS died. Though this figure is hard to trust, of those 30% many may have died from another disease that had been misdiagnosed. So, if there are dozens of cases, the probability of some of these deaths being caused by something other than SARS increases dramatically. (TN: This entire SARS sequence was annoying to translate sorry if it may be confusing.)

So, I think it's not an outrageous assumption to think this disease may be SARS.



However, the most important problem still remains. It is still a question of whether diseases of this world and Earth are similar.

....To be honest I'm still unsure about that.

Considering the environments of the two worlds are similar, the possibility of having similar viruses is high. And considering the nature of the virus – and with a little speculation, it is possible that the disease with these symptoms is influenza or a similar viral disease.

But even if the current symptoms are similar to influenza, it is impossible to deny the possibility that the disease could be drastically changed by the magic in the atmosphere of this world – so the disease could be something entirely different.

So only one thing is important here.

Whether it is better or not to kill all infected people because of the potential dangers, or if we are prepared to risk the pandemic and hope to save a lot of people.

“...Otouto-kun?”

“...From what I can tell it appears to be influenza. Are there no similar cases in the past, maybe a traveling merchant has come across a similar disease?”

“So you do know what this disease is?!”

“Yes. Especially considering the time of year, it appears to be influenza.”

– After all, I ended up deciding on influenza.

And I didn’t even mention the possibility of it being SARS to Claire.

If this action triggers a pandemic, I may as well be a criminal who has killed so many people. That’s why, I won’t mention this to anyone else. I’ll be the only person to blame.

Nonetheless, I have no intention of attempting to treat this disease recklessly.

Even if it isn’t influenza, it may not matter, there is a possibility that it may be a disease that can be treated by resting the sick in an isolated environment. Considering the fact that most who have been cured are all wealthy people, there is a chance.

“Then, Michelle and the others will be saved!?”

“Umm.....If someone affected by the disease is already physically weak they have a lower chance of surviving, but if they’re isolated in a warm and humid room, keep themselves well fed, and get plenty of rest, I think there should be a good chance that most will recover.”

“Really? They’ll really be saved?!”

“Yes, young and healthy people, like Michelle, have a very good chance of

recovery.”

“Thank you, Otouto-kun! You’re my savior!”

An emotional Claire deeply embraces me.

“You can’t feel relieved yet, they will die if left as they are now, right?”

“Oh, yes, I have to tell my father quickly, will you come with me?”

“.....No, it would better if you went alone.”

“Eh? Why won’t you come with, otouto-kun?”

“I’d like to go with.....but I am not supposed to receive any education. If our father finds out I’ve received education, I do not know what kind of punishment Milli would receive.”

“Ah, that’s right, but...but if I am the only one...”

I wonder why Claire began to have a frightened expression on her face. I grabbed both of her shoulders and stared into her face.

“Claire, are you thinking of Michelle?”

“That is.....Of course, she was the one who raised me and took care of me instead of my mother who always seems to be busy.”

“If that is the case, be brave, persuade father to try the measure I mentioned before, isolate and take care of the sick people.....can you do that?”

“That is – yeah...well...I know, I will try to, If it can save Michelle, I will absolutely not give up!”

Shortly after that, I sent Claire to speak to our father, I quickly went over the ways to treat influenza with her before sending her out, and I turned my eyes to Milli who had kept silent the entire time.

“Hey Milli, do you think Claire can persuade our father?”

“...It will be difficult.”

“Even if Claire tells him everything she knows about the disease and how to cure it?”

“After all, Claire was only given a brief overview of influenza. If her father tries to get anymore information from her, he’ll quickly be able to determine that she learned of this knowledge from someone else.”

“Either way, Claire will not reveal the source of her information.....Or don’t you believe so Leon-sama?”

“...I guess you’re right.”

Her father is likely to want to know where Claire came by this knowledge. He

may even try to force Claire to reveal her source by risking Michelle's life.

It seems that Claire's sole purpose is to save Michelle. So, Claire's attempt at persuasion is likely to fail.

But, I might be able to persuade him if I can explain it to him directly.

On the other hand, to everyone else, I appear to be just a child. The chances of anyone believing a child are low. If I am taken seriously, Milli may be punished for me receiving an education.

I see, so there's no chance of a direct meeting.

"Leon-sama, have you forgotten about what I said earlier?"

"What Milli said?"

"If Leon-sama did the right thing and it will result in me being punished, I will gladly accept it."

—I was momentarily lost for words. But, when I thought about helping Claire, I quickly made up my mind.

".....Am I seriously considering this?"

"Leon-sama are you unsure of what to do? If you do not help Claire now, will you not regret it for the rest of your life?"

“I know that!”

Over the past few years, Claire has become an irreplaceable family member to me. If someone so important to Claire is going to die, I think I want to help her from the bottom of my heart.

If I abandon her now, if I have to see Claire grieve over Michelle, I would not be able to forgive myself.

“But, is it okay, even if you will be punished for it!?”

“Leon-sama, it’s okay, I may not be able to stay at your side, but I should not be killed.”

“How is that supposed to convince me....?”

It would be better than dying. I know that. But, either way Milli would no longer be by my side. Is Milli being removed from my side really supposed to convince me?

“You should know the right choice, Leon-sama, please go help Claire-sama.”

Her unwavering dark purple eyes stare straight at me. I was able to understand that Milli was prepared to accept any consequences of my actions.

Milli is serious. So I also have to choose. Will I really let this happen to Claire?

Lose Milli, or lose Claire.....

“Milli.....It was just you and I for a long time, I’ve known you since I was born, I think of you as my actual mother.”

“....Leon...sama?”

I only knew my father by his voice. I don’t know anything about my birth mother. Until I met Claire, only Milli was my family.

Therefore—

“.....I rely on you too much Milli.....If I say I’ll be selfish and go help Claire, is it really okay?”

I gritted my teeth and forced myself to say the words. Milli, after listening to me...smiled with a calm face.

“Leon-sama, that is enough, please, please go to Claire-sama.”

“..... Thank you, Milli ...Well then – I will go!”

I leave her with my sincere thanks and I turn on my heel and sprint out of the room.

Just before the door to the room closed,

“.....You grew up to be a good child. My precious, Leon -”

I thought I heard Milli say.



# Chapter 2-1: Encounter with Father

The sun begins to set and night falls on the courtyard.

I was headed for the main house, when I could hear Claire's desperate voice coming from the opposite direction. I hurriedly change my destination and headed towards her voice.

Then, just beyond the bushes, I witnessed pure madness illuminated by torchlight.

The first thing I saw were red flames. A father-like character and several knights surrounded the infected people and servants, including Michelle, with torches in hand.

The servants are sitting on a pyre that is made up of straw and firewood wet with oil. It is obvious what is about to happen.

"Otou-sama, please stop! Please, listen to me!"

"Claire, I understand your feelings, truly. I want the same thing as you."

"Then, please, stop this!"

"I can't do that, I have an obligation to protect my people, I can't even imagine how many more may die if I do not stop this disease here."

“But they serve the Grances family!”

“I have the same feeling as you, but if I were to give them special treatment because of that, other people would do the same. This way the disease would never be stopped!”

“But if we treat them properly, they will be cured!”

“That is only your wish.”

“You’re wrong!”

“Then, where did you get such knowledge?”

“That is....”

Claire bit her lip. The reason for that is because my secret would be revealed if she said anything. But that silence will only increase father’s misunderstanding.

“That’s enough. They are already afflicted. Nothing can be done.”

“But—”

“Claire-sama, your feelings are enough.”

While other maids trembled, Michelle, who had kept up her resolute attitude, spoke up.

“... Michelle, do you know what you are saying?”

“I do not want to die. But if things remain as they are the disease may spread to the people of our province. If I had to choose between the two, I hope for death...”

“No.....I hate it, Michelle, please do not say something like that!”

“—Claire-sama, do not come near me!”

Michelle rejected Claire’s attempt to hug her.

Michelle’s fear should be unimaginable at this point. Though she seems to be resolute in her decision.

I could see the deep love Michelle had for Claire and I could see Claire felt the same. I came to a complete stop on the verge of tears.

“...Claire, you need to leave.”

Our father gives instructions to one of the knights, who then proceeded to restrain Claire. Claire was unable to resist.

.....Was the burden I put on Claire too much after all...

I had hoped that Claire would have been able to persuade father, but it seems that it cannot be helped. I approached my father who was about to begin issuing new orders out to his knights.

“Father, please listen!”

“What is it now—Leon? Why are you here?”

My father raises a dismayed voice, and Claire’s eyes widen in surprise. Furthermore, all of the knights begin to talk amongst themselves.

The first time we’ve been face to face in over four years.

For someone like me, who lost his parents early in my previous life, I hold a special meaning to the connection between family.

Therefore, I didn’t want to hold a grudge, and was hoping to be able to talk with my father.

.....But now is not the time. Now I need to focus on helping Michelle; I take a deep breath and begin to try to persuade my father.

“I’m here because there is something I need to discuss with you.”

“....Was it you that gave Claire such strange ideas?”

“It is not strange, it was accurate knowledge of this disease.”

“So, I’m supposed to believe you? You, who has spent your entire life alone, somehow has the knowledge to cure this disease?”

It looks like he doesn’t believe me, but that is within my expectations. First of all, I’ll tell him of general knowledge I have of this disease to pique his interest.

“In addition to high fever, discomfort and loss of appetite, unlike with a common cold, symptoms appear suddenly, the disease is characterized by symptoms that span the entire body, and it is also common during a dry and cold season. The disease is known as influenza, a highly infectious disease.”

“...Influenza, you say? You say you know what this disease is?”

“Yes, I know about it well.”

Now that I’ve piqued his interest I can hopefully persuade him.

Even if it is influenza, there are various kinds, so it is impossible to determine the exact type of influenza affecting the province now.

But, knowing that, Michelle and the other’s fate is decided. I stare straight into my father’s eyes and continue to, desperately, try to convince him.

“I assume, by the fact that you appear so confident, you know how to cure it?”

“Yes, I know how to.”

Without averting my eyes I answer, and let out a sigh of relief in my heart.

I need him to understand that I can save Michelle and the others — I turn my eyes to the trembling housemaids.

Any children who are not physically fit and elderly people have a lower chance of survival, but fortunately they all look like they’re in their twenties. If we prepare an environment where they can rest well, even without medicine, there is still a good possibility of recovery.

“Most people can be helped, if treated as I say.”

I fixed my eyes directly on my father. Immediately afterwards, the surrounding knights started to make noise.

To them I appear to be nothing more than a young child – none of them appear to be taking me seriously.

However—

“.....Hmm...what kind of treatment is that?”

Only my father posed a question to my earlier words.

“In a clean, humid, warm room, let them rest and give them plenty of water

and nutritional meals and they should recover in about ten days.”

“Hou, so you’re saying they don’t even need to take any medicine?”

“Medicine.....isn’t necessary.”

To tell the truth, I would like antipyretic agents. But that is more of a story of if that type of medicine really exists in this world.

When Earth was around the same time period as this world, poisons were openly used when they were believed to be medicine. It is an honest answer that we do not want to have the sick take any drugs when the exact effect is not known.

“They just ‘get better’, if allowed to rest?”

“The most important thing is first creating the appropriate environment for them to rest in.”

Suffering from influenza and being pushed into a warehouse in winter, the sick are just as likely to die from the cold as they are from the disease.

“If what you’ve said is true, it would be wonderful...but how do you intend to prove it?”

“.....I’m sorry, but I can not prove anything in the current situation. If you do what I say, I should be able to prove it in ten days.”

“Certainly, that may very well be true. However, I can not risk that.”

.....Just as I thought.

“—Just to check, you never even believed my story from the start, correct?”

“Of course not. I do not know where you would have even obtained such knowledge....”

That’s when my father turned his eyes on Claire.

.....huh? Maybe it’s become clear that Claire has been coming to visit me for quite some time? No, is it because Claire and I have said near identical things?

But if I think about it, even from just a little while ago he may have been able to determine as much. Because I came to the aid of Claire, it may have just been by process of elimination....either way, it can not be helped now.

“Anyway, you do not look like you’re lying, I think there is value to your story.”

“Then, please tell me why you can not do it.”

“Because the risk is too high, you said that earlier that it is a highly contagious disease, if you are not able to manage their symptoms, how will you take responsibility if you infect others?”



“That can be prevented by isolating them appropriately.”

“However, in order for them to rest properly, we would need someone healthy to care for them. Are you saying that we should potentially sacrifice someone with such unproven information?”

“That is...”

Certainly that risk remains. It is impossible to say that the sick will recover without medicine, and the possibility exists that whoever cares for the sick may become infected as well.

So I already have an answer to that question. If someone needs to take risks, then there is an obvious choice for that.

Therefore—

“—If that is the case, then I will take care of them.”

A dignified voice echoes from behind me unexpectedly just before I am able to speak. It was a voice that belonged to someone that shouldn't be here, I quickly turn to look toward the voice.

“Milli, why are you here!?”

“That is because, I expected if Leon-sama were successful in persuading your father, you would need someone to care for the sick.”

“Take care....her?”

“I said that I am always on your side Leon-sama.”

Milli shows a mischievous smile, and stands next to me. Then, I turned to face my father.

“Robert-sama, long time no see.”

“.....Milli. You will take care of them?”

“Yes, that’s right”

“But...you heard everything too, if you take care of them, you realize you will be putting yourself in danger, right?”

“I understand as much. But, above all else, I trust Leon-sama.”

Without even a hint of doubt in Milli’s voice, Milli answered my father flatly. Father showed a slightly troubled expression at Milli’s attitude.

“...Are you serious?”

“Yes, of course.”

They stared at each other quietly for a while. Eventually it was father that broke the silence.

“...Understood..... If you say so, let’s leave their fate to you.”

In this way, all of the sick people were left to us. I thought that I would have to go through a lot more trouble, but suddenly the flow of the conversation changed once Milli arrived.

There was a long silence after the previous exchange between Milli and my father.

Unexpectedly, the knights did not raise any objections. They believed my father’s judgment rather than believing anything I had said. Or maybe it was just because they did not want to kill everyone.

“Well then, I would like to take them with us now. Is that okay?”

“Well, we can gather the necessary items later.”

At the approval of my father, Milli walks toward the maids who are trembling due to the cold and their fear. I’m afraid that after they were forced out into the cold night their condition may have worsened. They are all trying so hard.

“.....Everyone, I know you are in pain, but are you able to walk out to the guest house?”(TN: Yep, I reluctantly settled on calling Leon’s “home” a guest house, even after saying I didn’t like it.)

The housemaids somehow managed to stand up without any help.

“Leon-sama, what needs to be done now?”

“I....”

I look at my father, expecting to be questioned or possibly imprisoned.

“I’d like to ask you many questions, but that can wait until we find out if you really can cure these people. You should do what needs to be done now.”

Hmm, does he mean to say he will wait to make his decision on what to do with me until the sick have either died or been cured? Then, I have to do whatever I can to cure them.

“Thank you Father, and do not forget to wash your hands and gargle some water when you return to the mansion, please also hang wet towels in your room.”

“.....Heh?”

“There may be other infected people, doing this should help prevent against influenza and the probability of infection should drop.”

“Understood, I’ll also notify the population of the province as well as the residence of the mansion. However, seeing you here is really.....No, even if I say anything, it won’t help.”

Father leaves me with meaningful words muttered under his breath and leaves with his knights following behind him. I returned my gaze to Milli.

“I’ll return to the guest house to help you with the sick.”

“.....even if I tell you to remain away from the guest house because it’s not safe, you wouldn’t listen.”

“If it were me asking you to stay away Milli, do you think you would listen?”

“.....I understand, it was a foolish thing to say. Then, I will be returning first.”

“What are you talking about, I’ll be going back with you too, right?”

“No. Don’t you still have important business to take care of Leon-sama?”

Milli says this and turns her eyes to look behind me. There was the figure of Claire who had been desperately holding back her tears this entire time.

What’s the matter? Regardless of Michelle, was it painful for her to see the servants like that? As I thought, Milli had taken this time as a chance to leave with the other servants..

The moment Milli is no longer in sight, Claire jumped into my arms.

“Woah!?”

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, it’s all my fault!”

“...Why are you apologizing?”

“Because of me, your secret was revealed to father!”

“Ah.....so it’s about that.”

Even now father would still have little trust for me, but that may change if Michelle helps us. And if what happened here reaches Caroline’s ears...Milli...

“Otouto-kun, let me nurse the sick too.”

“That’s.....not possible.”

“Why?”

“If Caroline found out she would never forgive you.”

If Caroline believed I was forcibly keeping Claire with me, I do not know what she would do. In the worst case scenario, she may bring back Claire and kill the infected people.

Claire bit her lip with regret, I think she was able to understand.

“...I’m sorry, otouto-kun, I only caused you trouble. I do not know if you can ever forgive me, but if there is something I can do tell me.”

“Something you can do?”

“Yes, I will do anything if it means you will forgive me.”

Claire is staring straight at me while her tears continue to stream down her cheeks. Her jade eyes revealed her earnest feelings, I can tell how serious her words are.

Geeze, a girl shouldn't be saying that she will do anything. What are you planning to do if you are asked to do something strange? She is old enough to understand something like this.

Well anyway, demanding some kind of perverted request from my sister would be impossible.

“Will you really do anything?”

“Yes, I'll do whatever I can.”

“Okay.....then Claire, please smile.”

“.....Eh? Otouto-kun what are you saying?”

“So, that is my request. I couldn't stand by and watch as you cried, so I decided to help. So that's why, it's just enough if Claire is smiling.”

“Bu..But, that isn't a punishment.”

“You did say that you’d do anything, right? You shouldn’t go back on your word.”

“.....That’s unfair, if that’s all you ask.....I can’t possibly go against it.”

I guess Claire had been preparing herself to receive punishment. She looked like she was either about to burst out into laughter or tears.

I understand the feeling, but I want Claire to smile. I made a difficult choice in coming to help Claire, but this is truly all I want.

“Smile, please, Claire.”

That’s something both Milli and I would enjoy — Claire continued, almost inaudibly.

“.....Mean...Although otouto-kun is gentle, you can be quite mean, but it’s a promise...If you say you like it when I smile, then I will always be smiling.”

“Yes, please do.”

“Thank you...Thank you, otouto-kun. Really...thank you.”

With tears still streaming down her face Claire let out a beautiful smile. I continued to hug her delicate body until her tears stopped.



## Chapter 2-2: Claire Ridill has no self-respect

Based off of the current results, the flu epidemic appears to have been successfully resolved.

All of the maids, including Michelle, are now safe. We kept them in a clean and humid environment, and they all appeared to be in good physical shape, which helped them get over the disease.

However, there were some sacrifices that were made. The people needed to nurse the sick also became infected.

Still, we did manage to save more people than if we had just burned them all.

As a result, the knowledge I had was proved to be genuine — and I was brought to my father. His questions for me were surprisingly concise and I was quickly released. He appeared to have no intention of investigating me further and would quietly ignore the fact that I had knowledge that I shouldn't.

– However, as a different form of punishment, Milli was fired.

There would be no other punishment, other than Milli being forced to return to her hometown...but once the punishment for Milli had been decided, I was not allowed to meet with her, and I wasn't even allowed to say goodbye.

So, as a substitute for Milli, a new maid, Mary came. She was also here to monitor me closely and remained unfriendly and would hardly talk to me.

Because there are now long stretches of time where I am unable to interact with anyone, I was desperate to talk to someone –

“Otouto-kun~ I came to check on you.”

One afternoon, about one month after Milli was gone – Claire came to see me in the living room.

“You came to check on me....Isn’t there already a maid here to provide surveillance for those in the mansion?”

The new maid is not on my side, so I need to be cautious about what I say around her. But I knew I could trust Claire, I sat down next to her on the sofa.

“You should be fine, I persuaded Mother to be lenient with your punishment.”

“Eh, really?”

“Yes, it is true, but before I talk about that I needed to apologize first.”

“What, apologize for.....what?”

“For Milli-san, I’m really sorry that happened!”

“Oh that, I told you before, Milli and I had prepared ourselves for that

outcome, so you do not need to apologize, Claire.”

“But, to be separated from your mother, it must have been a shock.”

“It was a shock – but...Please wait a minute, what did you mean by mother?”

“What else could I mean by mother...Eh?... Didn’t you know that Milli-san was your birth mother?”

“.....you’re lying, right?”

“It’s not a lie – everyone knows, did you not notice that Milli-san called you and I by our first names and never used our family name?”

“But, Milli can’t be my mother...”

“That is.....Milli-san probably made a promise not to tell you, since Mother seemed to have been against allowing Milli-san to take care of you.”

“That’s not possible...”

I am completely overwhelmed by the shocking truth Claire has revealed to me, but surely it must be true. There were so many times over the past six years that I thought Milli was like an actual mother to me. (TN: He does say six years (六年) here even though he’s actually eight.)

“Damn it!”

I slam my fist down on the table.

Someone so important was right in front of me, someone that I had to protect, but I didn't even notice until Claire told me!

"Sorry, it wasn't my place to tell something like that to you, right? ..."

".....Oh no...No, Claire you're fine. I'm the one at fault for not even noticing, even if I knew about it, I was obsessed with helping you."

I do not regret saving Michelle for Claire. However, if I knew that Milli was my mother...it just makes me sad that we were not able to have a proper goodbye.

"I knew nothing about Milli, at least I should've asked what the name of her hometown is."

"Oh, no problem, I asked Michelle to secretly check on Milli's safety."

"..Eh, really?"

"Yes, really. She is living in her hometown, since she may be under surveillance, it would be impossible to bring her back."

"Oh, she's okay! Good job, Claire!"

"Gu, gujjobu? I do not understand, but I'm glad that you are happy." (TN:

Leon says gujjobu in the previous line. Gujjobu is just how you would phonetically pronounce 'good job' in Japanese. So it's an unfamiliar term to Claire.)

Woops, because I'm so happy, I let out a word from my previous life.

But, I have some hope now. I may not be able to do it now, but someday, I can find Milli if I am able to get some form of freedom.

"Hey, otouto-kun, is there nothing you want me to do? Since Milli is no longer here, is there anything I can do to be helpful?"

"Are you worried about me?"

"Is there nothing? Otouto-kun please, there must be some kind of favor you can ask?"

This is no good saying something like that. But, because she is my onee-chan, I could never make a perverted request. What would she do if I had made an unreasonable demand?

There was a similar opportunity last time, I haven't regretted not acting on that opportunity.

"Oh... okay umm...Oh, I have a favor to ask, in fact I have a lot of free time now that Milli is gone, and I would like to study, but there are no books available to me here. If you can get any books, can you bring them here?"

“Books, huh?...Let me think....It might be difficult because there are so many eyes watching me in the mansion, but I will try to find some way to manage it.”

“Oohh, thank you Claire!”

“It’s okay, as long as it’s something I can do for my otouto-kun, though it may be a little late.”

“...Eh, what is that...What do you mean?”

After hearing my question, Claire averted her eyes from me.

“.....I’m supposed to meet with another potential marriage candidate. This time I think it’s impossible for me to run away.”

Is that so.....the marriage of convenience again? Someday I thought it may come up again, but I didn’t think it would be so soon.....

“What kind of person is it this time?”

“An accomplished, 27 year old marquise, it seems that he is not bad looking, and I think that he is a better candidate than I had expected.”

“That is.....”

I am at a complete loss for words. If I listen objectively this marquis sounds like a good candidate, but knowing the age difference with nine-year-old Claire

is 18 years. Would this really be okay...?

“Do not worry – even if I decide to get married, the marriage itself wouldn’t take place until I am twelve-years-old, Mother said it would be fine for me to act freely until that time.”

“Is that so.....That’s why it was fine for you to come here.”

“If I’m to be married anyway, I’d like to spend as much time as possible with my otouto-kun.”

“Claire...”

Did she come here thinking that way? I would like to save Claire somehow, but...as I am now I can’t do anything.

At least I have a little over two years until Claire turns twelve. But, would I really be able to find a way to save her in that time?

I do not know. I do not know.... but no, just because I’m not sure now doesn’t mean I can give up already. I’d like to help relieve Claire’s burden even a little.

“Claire, is there anything I can do for you?”

“Eh, what’s wrong? Suddenly asking something like that.”

“In truth, I really would like to help you with the marriage itself, but it is

impossible for me right now, so if possible is there anything else I can do?”

“.....Really? You’ll do anything?”

“Yes, I promise you.”

Claire is now as important to me as Milli and Saya. Any inconvenient request she may make I should be able to grant as her younger brother.

Therefore—

“Would you please take my first time?”

“.....Hah?”

I could not understand Claire’s request.

“So, please, I would like my otouto-kun to take my first time, rather than by a middle-aged man whose face I don’t even know.”

“.....Oh, oh I see. I mean, your first time, what could you mean by that – ha ha ha ha ha ha ha.....”

“Wow, that reaction.....Otouto-kun, you must know what I mean by that kind of thing.”



“Oh, no, no...that’s because I am eight years old so I do not know how to react to that!”

“.....Are you trying to lie your way out of this?”

Wow, I was completely seen through by Claire.

“Even if I’ve heard of it, I have no experience doing it.”

“Is that the case? You don’t need to worry – as part of my bride practice I am educated by Michelle so I have some knowledge. So, your onee-chan will lead you.”

It was at this time that I noticed Claire had been slowly moving closer to me on the sofa.

Even though hearing words like, “your onee-chan will lead you,” may seem desirable, but the opponent here is my real older sister, and she is still only nine years old and I am only eight.

How can I force this onto Claire? (TN: This is supposed to be a double entendre. I did my best to keep it as close to the raw as possible. Sorry if this or the next couple sentences are awkward to read.)

No, no. Not in a sexual way ... it’s not like that. I just mean to force my thoughts onto her.

I'm just forcing it onto Claire! I don't mean anything sexual by forcing my thoughts onto her! Am I stuck in a loop!?

"Hehe, otouto-kun, you're cute when you're panicking."

"Wait a minute, Claire! Do you know what you are trying to do!?"

"Of course, I know. Though, I have no experience, so it is possible that I don't know."

"I don't want to hear your play on words! Let's calm down a bit and think about it!"

"Eh~but, the other day you said, "Even if it's something you don't like, you should be prepared to back up your own words," you told me that, didn't you?"

"....."

"You did say that, didn't you?"

".....Y-yes, I did."

In other words, I said that when I was afraid someone may take advantage of Claire and force her to do perverted things. I even had to convince myself a few times now not to make any perverted requests of her.

.....It cannot be helped! Can it? No way, I never thought that my onee-chan

would force me to do something perverted!

“So, otouto-kun, will you take my first time?”

Claire grabs my shoulders and brings my face close to hers.

“Wait, Claire, your face is too close! What are you going to do!?”

“What do you mean, of course we should start off with a kiss.”

“Of course a kiss – not! Let’s calm down a bit and think about it! Aren’t there various problems here!?”

“Is there a problem...?”

“Well, that is....”

Calm down, calm down me! I need to calm down and think about this.

It is impossible, for many reasons, to accept Claire’s request. However, because I said such things earlier, I can not just go back on my earlier words either.

If that’s the case, what should I do? There is only one option I can think of, I need to persuade Claire to withdraw her request.

But, how would I be able to do that.

For example.....In Japan, even siblings holding hands could be a problem. But in this world even a marriage between siblings isn't uncommon. Even if doing this would cause people to have a negative opinion of Claire, she wouldn't care.

The children of blood-related family members would have a higher chance of having birth defects or disabilities — no, that argument is no good.

The aim is not to make children. I do not know if Condo-san exists in this world, but because I am in a magical world, I cannot be careless. (TN: Condo-san is Japanese slang for condom. I found it too funny, so I've left it as is.)

No, before that, due to my age I shouldn't be able to make children.

But, Claire, knowing all of this, has still asked me. She would not change her mind even if I point all of this out to her.

.....Huh? I can not find a reason to persuade her to not want to do this. Maybe, is it because Claire wants to create good memories? No...No, such a foolish thing.

I would definitely regret it if I were to do this out of sympathy for Claire. I have to persuade her properly. But, um, the problem is ... .. problems, problems?

—That's it!

"If it is the first time for both of us, we really wouldn't know what to do!"

I'm so stupid ha ha ha! She won't be convinced by such a stupid reason.

"That is.....certainly true."

– She was convinced by that!?

"It is my first time and having my otouto-kun lead sounds like an attractive situation, but for that I have to get you to gain experience first..."

H..huh? Did she just say something strange? I feel like this could be dangerous. This could be terrible if I don't stop it.

"Ah, excuse me, Claire?"

"- Oh yeah! That way otouto-kun can fulfill my request."

Wow, I was surprised. Suddenly Claire stood up and grasped my hand.

She would usually seem cute, but now I get an ominous feeling from her.

"Otouto-kun!

"Y...yes?"

"I thought of something really good, so please look forward to it!"

Claire quickly left, giving me no opportunity to stop her. I was left standing alone in the room, convinced Claire had misunderstood what I said earlier.

.....Ah, this girl is absolutely hopeless.

## Chapter 2–3: Birthday Gift

The season is just around early summer. I turned nine years old and celebrated my first birthday without Milli. At such a milestone, I was called to meet with my father, Robert.

I was not expecting my father to celebrate my birthday in place of Milli, but still, I thought that he may have some kind words to say to me.

But, after entering my father's office—

“Leon, your fiancée has been decided.”

My father greeted me with this cruel reality.

“An....engagement?”

“Yes, you will be married to the daughter of the Sfir family.”

The Sfir family? Haven't I heard that name somewhere before?  
Somewhere.....it doesn't matter, I have no choice but to leave.

Though I'll need to find a way to get into contact with Claire and Milli before  
I....Ahh, I remember!!

“If I'm not mistaken that girl is three years younger than me.”

“...Hou? So you know of her. Yes, you will be married to Sophia of the Sfir family.”

Three years younger, huh. It doesn't sound so bad if I compare it to Claire's potential marriage partners....even if I'm being told to marry someone I've never met before.

“I'm guessing I can't refuse?”

“Of course not. But, this, for you, really shouldn't seem like such a bad outcome to your story.”

Father gives me a meaningful look. I questioned how he could think I would be fine with being forced into an unexpected engagement. Perhaps he had noticed my hidden feelings?

“...What do you mean by it shouldn't be such a bad outcome?”

“That is—”

“—That is, someone lowborn like you should feel privileged to marry someone from a noble family!”

Suddenly the door opens and a strange boy steps into the room..... No, to be fair, the only man I know in this world is my father, so I have no way of knowing what qualifies as strange here.

“Blake, entering without even knocking, why?”

“Excuse me for my rudeness, Father.”

“Father?.....Are you my older brother?”

“Calling me your older brother when you are nothing more than an illegitimate child, you disgust me.”

Blake grabbed a nearby chair and threw it towards me at full power.

He threw it out of anger, therefore the aim was poor, and the chair crashed into the wall behind me.

That's dangerous.....If I had been hit by that I would have suffered a serious injury.

Is this really my older brother? He has the temper of a five year old. He should be six years older than I am, but honestly Claire is more mature than he appears to be.

“Did you not hear me? I said do not call me your older brother.”

“.....I'm sorry, Blake-sama.”

I thought I'd want to get along with my brother if we ever met, but it seems like that would be impossible now.

Well he has been raised by Caroline, telling him stories of how the child of a mistress may threaten his position as heir.

After he succeeds to the head of the Grances family, Blake should feel less threatened by me, at that time maybe we will be able to talk.



Back to the matter at hand — I turn my eyes back to Father.

“Instead of accepting the engagement, would you please listen to my request?”

“You impudent little—You will get married as Father has commanded you.”

“Blake, remain silent.”

“But Father—”

Father glares toward Blake, causing him to take a step back.

I would like to say Blake looked pathetic, but honestly Father looked really intimidating. It's strange how much he resembled Claire just now.

“Leon, please let me hear your request.”

“I would like to visit the Sfir family before agreeing to the marriage. Can you grant me this request?”

“...Why is that?”

“If I am to be married, I'd like to get to know my fiancée beforehand.”

It isn't entirely false, but it's more of a half-truth.

After meeting with my potential fiancée, if we can get along well, I may agree to the marriage. But if we do not get along, I will try to find a way to get out of the marriage.

My eyes met with my father while I was deep in thought and I could see the edges of his mouth lift to show a broad grin.

“That sounds good. I promise I will give you an opportunity to see her before the marriage.”

.....Huh? I thought he may have discovered my true intention. Or is it that he actually understands the desire to meet my potential fiancée before the marriage? Well...either way it would be better if we can first meet.

So, I thanked my father for granting me my request and left his office.

“Otouto-kun, you were here.”

I was met by Claire when I left the mansion to return home.

“Claire? What’s wrong?”

“I have a wonderful present for you.”

“A present.....why so suddenly?”

“Of course it’s because it’s your birthday.”

Oh, oh oh..... Since Milli left I was thinking that I no longer had anyone to celebrate with due to the development just a little while ago – No, this makes me pretty happy.

“Thank you, Claire.”

I embraced Claire without thinking.

“O-Otouto-kun, I know you’re happy, but it would be hard to explain if someone saw us, right? So.....so when we’re alone I’d be fine with this.”

“So-sorry!”

I jumped back and looked at Claire, whose cheeks had become bright red.

Er.....She’s just embarrassed, right? I feel like her reaction is a little strange just for a brother hugging his sister.....is it just my imagination?

“*Cough* Well, Otouto-kun, what do you think your gift is?”

“Possibly....”

“Well, you said you wanted to learn a lot, right?”

“Ooohh, as I’d expect of Claire!”

I wonder what it will be. Maybe a book? I’d be really happy if it’s a book about how to use magic....Oh, but I can’t disregard the history books of this world, and even a world map or something similar would be good.

“–Alistair!”

When Claire spoke, a girl around seventeen years old appeared from just around the corner of the room. Even though she was wearing plain clothes...she was an incredibly beautiful girl.

“U-Umm, who might this person be?”

“A gift?”

“...Huh?”

“Yes, this slave is a gift for my Otouto-kun.”

“.....A-ah, slave, huh. A slave....Indeed, this is exactly what I wanted – as if I’d say that stupid sister!”

“Hah!? What do you mean stupid sister!?”

“You’re stupid because you’re stupid! What do you mean this slave is my gift!?”

“Fuu, Otouto-kun doesn’t even understand this much.”

I let out a sigh, Claire really is hopeless. Why am I getting such a bad feeling from the way she’s acting all haughty?

“Well, Otouto-kun, what could you possibly do with this cute young slave? I think it would be nice if you would have various experiences with her.”

“Oh, that sounds good — not! What are you trying to get your brother to do!?”

Even if I accept how vastly different this world is and accept the existence of slavery, I don’t understand the meaning of it being a gift for my birthday.

As we get older, I feel that Claire’s head is becoming more and more filled with useless thoughts. Suddenly, Claire brought her face close to my ear.

“Otouto-kun may not know, but this girl is the daughter from the elf tribe, she is much older than she appears and is very knowledgeable.”

Claire whispered to me and gently spun away from me, she stared at me with a mischievous smile.

“- So, then, I think that she should teach you various things every night from now.”

Similar words to what she originally said. At first I thought she was joking or meant something perverted, but the meaning changed after taking into consideration what Claire had whispered to me earlier.

“....Did you possibly bring me this as a gift, instead of a book, to hide the truth from the new maid and Caroline?”

“Fufu~, isn’t it meant to be a secret from everyone?”

Saying so, I put my index finger on my lip, Claire really seemed like an angel to me now. At first I thought that she was stupid, but she remembered my request and even found a way for me to learn in secret.

“.....Thank you Claire, I’m sorry for calling you a stupid sister, this is the best birthday present I’ve ever received.”

“Fufu~~, I wanted you to say that I am the best onee-chan.”

I guess she’s joking, Claire has a mischievous smile. But for me it was such a nice birthday gift.

“Claire is the best onee-chan.”

“~~~~Ah, you are so cute, Otouto-kun! If you act so obediently, I’ll want to ask you for whatever I want!”

She says that and hugs me firmly.....Well, I thought she was still a small child, but she seems to have grown in certain places...not.

“Hey, didn’t you say it would be bad if we were seen hugging by someone?”

“Ah, that’s true. I’m sorry.”

Claire turned away from me with her cheeks dyed red. Huh, her reaction is again a bit strange.

We really must not be seen by anyone — When something caught my eye, Blake was standing in the entryway.

.....No he must’ve seen us, right? I thought that this may lead to something awful...but Blake noticed my stare and turned on his heel and walked away.

“Otouto-kun, what’s wrong?”

“Eh?....I-It’s nothing.”

“Is that so? Don’t worry about the slave, I’ve received permission from mother for you to have her.”

“.....Hah?”

“So, as soon as someone noticed you have a slave, it would have been

reported to Mother immediately, so you have permission in advance from her this way.”

“Permission.....surely that’s impossible.”

“I figured you’d be surprised. I heard that Otouto-kun is soon to be engaged, so I think that it would be better to have experience with other girls to avoid being hated by your fiancée.”

“Wow.....”

What the hell. My sister’s trying to figure out what my level of sexual knowledge is, my sister who just gave me a slave as a gift, and my stepmother who approves of it, I wonder what kind of reaction I should have.

While I was thinking this, Claire brought her face close again.

“Because this is the story the new maid has been told, will you act properly?”

“.....properly?”

“For example, you might be sleeping with Alistair every evening, okay? But, young boys like Otouto-kun would not be satisfied with just once a day, right?”

“–Buu!?”

Did I hear her right!?

“I think it would be better to do those types of things several times a day, but how many times a day do you usually do it Otouto-kun?”

“I wonder if this is really appropriate to be talking about...”

“No. The true meaning of the slave may become exposed otherwise, and then you’ll never be able to find Milli-san again. In order for you to not be doubted, it is necessary for you to behave ‘properly’.”

“That is, maybe, but.....”

Huh? What is this shame play. I haven’t even hit puberty yet, so I wonder if I’m even capable of doing something like that...?

– Well, I can’t possibly say that!

“Anyway, Claire, I can keep it a secret without doing anything like that, so can

you just leave it to me?”

“I don’t like it, I have a lot of regrets about what happened with Milli-san, so I do not want to make you sad again, so I want to do whatever I can to help you.”

Am I being cornered now!?

Why can’t you understand, you stupid sister! I need to find some way to convince her, but she’s only concerned about me, so she’s making a reasonable argument.....

How on earth am I supposed to convince her?

“Well, whatever, if Otouto-kun won’t tell me, I’ll have to ask Michelle.”

Huh!? Ask Michelle? That means that she plans to talk with Michelle about how many times a young man like me might do it each day, right!?

And Michelle would understand what someone my age might be capable of — would she then explain all of that to Claire?

Uhhhh.....I hate that option too!

“Only at night, I only do it at night!”

“Well, is that so? A boy your age doesn’t do it more than that?”

“It’s because I haven’t yet hit puberty! So after I get a little older I’ll want to do it a lot more frequently! Therefore just once a day is enough right now!”

I feel like I’ve said something unnecessary in the heat of the moment.

“Is that so? Well if Otouto-kun says so then it must be the case.”

“Y-yes, that’s right.....”

I nodded as my eyes started to look like those of a dead fish.

## Chapter 2–4: Slave Girl Alistair

I was facing the slave girl on my bed in my room.

What would you call this....spectacularly awkward?

When Mary left us alone she said with an icy stare, “I will bring extra sheets tomorrow, so feel free to do as you please.” It depresses me to think about what she’s imagining.

I’m curious as to why this girl is a slave..... I slowly turn my eyes to look at her.

Her cherry blossom colored hair catches my eye first.

It is a color of hair which would’ve been impossible in my previous life, but it probably is her natural hair color. Her glamorous hair reflects the lights in the room, and it seems as if a halo is formed around her head.

Her eyes are of a deep blue that really draw you in; her other facial features are well proportioned as well.

Because she is a slave, her clothes are plain, but she does have a single silver hair ornament. If anything, she appears to be a well brought up girl that is just dressed plainly.

By the way, her ears aren’t as pointy as I was expecting, in fact, they really only come to a slight point. Also, when I imagine an elf, I picture a slender person with sharp features, but this girl has a pretty good style.

“...Um, Master?”

“Hmm? Did you need something?”

“No, I was wondering why you’ve been silently staring at me.”

“A-ah, sorry. I was just admiring your beautiful hair decoration.”

“Umm..... This is .....It’s something very important to me.”

It seems it holds a very special meaning to her. She lightly touched the hair ornament with a thoughtful expression on her face.

“Is it some kind of memento?”

“Well...yes, so please do not take it away from me.”

“You don’t need to worry, I would never take anything away from you, especially something so important.”

“Is that true?”

“It’s true...why are you so surprised?”

“That’s because.....Master will also take my first time now, right?”

“Hah?”

“No, I have already prepared myself, so I will not ask for you to spare me, but before we start could I tell you more about myself?”

“.....Umm, what are you talking about?”

“I understand that it is a ridiculous request, but please understand! I want to know at least a little about each other before we start!”

She bows her head deeply in order to get me to listen to her request.

“I don’t have any problem with what you’re asking, will you please raise your head for now?”

I try to get her to calm down, but she doesn’t budge. Huh? Will she not raise her head until I listen to her story?

“Well, first answer my question and I will listen to your story properly afterward.”

“...Are you telling the truth?”

The girl nervously lifts her head.

“Yes, therefore, you don’t need to act so worried.”

“...Thank you very much, Master. You’re so kind.”

She had looked very nervous for a while now, but seemed to finally relax. I thought her face was already very beautiful, but when she smiles she is very cute. If I had already hit puberty, I might have fallen for her right then and there.

“Well, you are...sorry, what’s your name?”



“Alistair, if you’d like, please call me Alice.”

“Well then, Alice, please call me Leon.”

“I understand, Leon-sama, right?”

“No, you don’t need to worry about any honorifics.....Ah well, we do have to worry about Mary, if she hears you call me just Leon she may become suspicious. But, for the moment it should be fine.”

“Yes, Leon, so what is your question?”

“Oh yeah...Claire – the girl who brought you here, what did she tell you?”

“That is.....every night, you may ask me for various things, so I should be prepared to devote myself body and soul to you and I should try to do my best with it all....”

“~~~~~”

...That girl. What she said isn’t wrong, but the way she worded it was terribly wrong!

She couldn’t possibly be wording it like that on purpose. It’s scary that I actually think she may be capable of something like that, but I would never try to do anything like that! Right?

“U-umm, although I said it will be my first time, I have learned a little bit from the women employed by the slave traders, so umm.....I may be awful at the beginning, but I will get better over time. So, please, be patient – ”

“Wait, wait! I have no intention on doing anything like that, so you don’t have to worry about that.”

“...Well ...Uh, umm.....what do you mean?”

I scratch my head in embarrassment. I explain to Alice what I actually want from her.

“So, you would like me to teach you about various things.....?”

“Yes, general knowledge would be fine, but if you have any knowledge of magic that would be great.”

“So, that was the case.”

It seems that all of the stress had finally become too much for her and Alice collapsed weakly. However, after she takes a few breaths, she raised her head.

“Wow, I misunderstood... I am ashamed...Please, forget everything I said earlier.”

“Everything you said earlier...”

Well, thinking about her earlier words, I feel like I heard some great things..... No, I shouldn't think about that.

Calm down, I need to calm down. My body is still nine years old, and puberty has not started yet. As it is, I must remain calm so I can keep my carnal desires in check.

.....Fuu, the room had become calm for a short moment.

But when I think about what she said, a pretty girl who has been trained, but still has no experience....some amazing and perverted thoughts come to my mind.....I need to remain calm and think clearly about this.

That's it. Let's change the subject for the time being.

“Well then, Alice you were born in the Elf tribe, so how did you become a slave to humans?”

“Why did I become a slave to humans...?”

“I'm just merely curious, so you don't have to answer if you don't want to.”

“No, Leon-sama, please ask me about anything you'd like to know.”

“.....Are you sure?”

“Yes, I told you I wanted us to know more about each other.”

Hmm, she doesn't seem like she's forcing herself to say it....that must be her true feelings.

“Will you tell me then?”

“Yes. Although it may not be an unusual story, but since I was born I've had a tremendous curiosity and I was very interested in human cities. So as soon as I became old enough, I left my village, but then I was deceived by a human that I thought I could trust... “

“...Well then, it wasn’t your choice to become a slave?”

“It wasn’t, but..is there really anyone that would choose to become a slave?”

Alice curiously tilts her head.

“No, I just wondered if you sold yourself for money, or if you were interested in spending the night with a man.”

“Do you think I would be interested in something like that?!”

Her pale skin was instantly dyed red. But I guess she soon realized it was a joke and she glared at me with a relieved look.

“.....do you really think I’d do something like that?”

“You don’t need to worry about it – I was just joking, so please don’t look at me with such sulky eyes.”

“Muu.....Will you forget about even saying it in the first place?”

“I’m sorry, I will forget about it properly, but please let me know just one thing, I don’t feel like you’ve given up, so why haven’t you tried to run away?”

“That is....because I just want to be happy.”

“.....You want to be happy?”

“Yes, I can not say the reason, but I need to be happy, so if it is a fate that I cannot escape, if I have to serve someone as a slave, I will try my best to like the person I serve.”

“I see....”

I remembered the words Alice said a little while ago.

Because it is the only thing in her life that will satisfy her – Alice will do whatever to be happy even if she’s sold as a slave to a stranger.

The marriages of convenience that have been decided for Claire and I, it may not be comparable to Alice, but our lives are being decided for us as well. Knowing this, you’d expect us to do anything we can to resist...as if.

“Alice, I will let you go free.”

“....Eh? What do you mean?”

It's something she couldn't even imagine. Alice scratches her head curiously.

"It's as I said, I'll let you go free from here, so you must live your life freely and be happy."

"That is —"

She finally seems to understand my words. Her expression is of complete shock, and her face that had been frozen for several seconds, finally changed.

"I am delighted with your feelings, but if you would allow me, I would like to stay at your side Leon-sama."

"I'm happy to hear that, but....why?"

"...Please look at this."

Alice opens her shirt slightly to show her chest. I was surprised at seeing this and began to turn my eyes away, but just before that, I noticed something like a magic square slightly below her neck.

"That is?"

"It is a stamp of a slave contract."

"It's proof of slavery, but do you have to show it to people like that?"

"It's not just a mark of slavery, it is inscription magic, if I were to betray my master in any way, I'd be hit with an intense amount of pain."

"Oh.....So there is such an effect.....Ah, but... If I say that it's okay for you to go free, then that wouldn't be an act of betrayal, right?"

"Because I know that Leon-sama wants to learn from me, so if I was allowed to run away due to your kindness, then there is a high possibility of me being hit by the pain."

.....Ah, I understand. I was curious what would be considered an act of betrayal, but it appears to be based off of the guilt of the slave.

The likelihood that a slave may try to kill their master while they sleep would be much lower this way, but I guess there is the obvious possibility that a slave would not feel guilty if they had been treated poorly.

It sounds useful when you want an obedient slave....though, in this case, it's

troublesome.

I honestly wanted to let Alice be free, but in my heart I do have a feeling that I want Alice to stay with me— and, Alice expects that if she were to try to leave, that would be judged as an act of betrayal.

“I would be troubled if pain hits me in a distant land, and there is spirit magic inscribed in the mark, even if I escape here, I can not live by myself.”

“Then, isn’t there a way to remove the mark?”

“I think that it would be possible for an exceptional magician, although it may also be possible to erase it in my hometown.....”

“In your current state you can not leave my side, and I have no way of finding a magician. I’m sorry, saying something like that and giving you false hope.”

“No, do not apologize, I said earlier, I think that I want to stay at your side Leon-sama.”

“Isn’t that just because you can’t go free from here?”

“I think that being by your side will be interesting.”

“...It certainly seems that your curiosity is strong. Even though you’ve had such a painful experience with humans before.”

“That’s right, I’ve had trouble trusting humans since becoming a slave, but I feel that I can believe in you Leon-sama.”

She’s saying something that makes me happy, but ... Is it okay, this girl. I am worried that she may be deceived again some day.

“I’m glad you feel that you can trust me, but what will you do if you’re betrayed again?”

“I will not do anything, as long as I believe in Leon-sama, whatever the outcome is, it was my own choice to stay with you.”

“.....If you truly believe so, then do not move, okay?”

I command that of Alice and embrace her closely. I pressed my lips against Alice’s neck.

“.....hnn~”

Alice lets out a cute voice, but she remains still. I confirmed it, and gently let go of Alice.

“... You’re quite obstinate to not resist at all.”

“I just trusted Leon-sama. But, why did you do that?”

“I put a kiss mark on your neck, I think it’s embarrassing, but later Mary can see it so she won’t become suspicious.”

“Mary, she’s the maid who came in earlier, right?”

“Ah, she also keeps watch on me, this way she won’t have any reason to be suspicious of me or you.”

“I understand.....but is there a special meaning behind it?”

“..... Actually, I also think that I would like to be happy, so when I heard Alice’s story, I thought it would be nice if we could be happy together.”

I reach out to Alice, but there is no reaction for some reason. Looking at her face, it was dyed red from ear to ear.

“.....Alice?”

“U-um, Leon-sama? Just now, that .....Did you just...pr-propose?”

I was trying to understand what this girl was saying, when I suddenly got the meaning behind her words.

“N-no! That wasn’t what I meant, I just wanted us to work hard together!”

“A-a-ah, I understand. I was a little surprised.”

“I am sorry, I said something in a very confusing way. If someone tells you that they want to be happy together, it can’t be helped that you’d take that as a proposal.”

“No, I was surprised, but I was very happy. Let’s aim for happiness together!”

“..... Haha, that’s a very strange line.”

“You’re terrible, didn’t Leon-sama say that first!”

“Sorry, sorry, it was a joke. Alright from now on let’s look after each other, Alice.”

“Yes, I’ll be in your care.”

In this way, the strange life between me and Alice began.

## Chapter 2–5: Quiet Daily Life. And–

Life with Alice.

I avoid Mary's eyes, I'm not having the kind of meetings with Alice that Mary is imagining...But, every night we meet so Alice can teach me various things.

For me who doesn't know anything about the Elf tribe, it is not surprising, but Alice is clearly much older than she appears. She looks seventeen and would appear to be only eight years older than me.

She seems to have traveled around the world for several years.

Still, she has a curious personality. The amount of knowledge she has is tremendous and I got all the information I could want about crops.

It wouldn't only be a dream to be able to obtain my domestic "cheat" now.

The best thing is that Alice had knowledge of magic. Thanks to that, I was able to start training with magic.

However, I only learned the basics of magic, I have not yet learned how to use it properly.

Learning magic is difficult without the aid of a magician, because Alice has had her magic sealed she is unable to help me further.

Still, when Alice is freed from her slave contract, she has promised to help me train more. Because of this, I can't wait for that day to come.

Time seemed to speed by as I learned from Alice — — and soon it was my birthday again, I turned ten years old.

"Haa.....Haa"

"Hey, what's wrong, Alice, are you already breathing heavily?"

"Haa haa..... why do you have so much stamina Leon? I can't keep up, even though I'm running with you everyday ~"

As the season changed, the weather became perfect for running. Alice is running around the house with me, but Alice seems to have been gasping for



breath for a little while now.

I run at a steady pace for 15 kilometers a day. I do this for three days and then I take a day off. It is a struggle for me to finish, but that may be because I'm only ten years old, but I think that Alice, who just turned 18 should be able to get used to it.

Ah ~ Or is it my constitution? Even though I run every day my arms and legs still remain thin, maybe I'm not cut out for marathon running yet. Still, I don't plan to stop running altogether.

Running with someone else is very enjoyable. I feel sorry for Alice, but I will have her keep me company from now on.

While thinking about this, we finished our final lap.

"Haa haa.....finally it's over ~"

"Hey, you have to cool down properly after you finish running, remember?"

"I know that....."

Alice sits down and stretches out while complaining.

Her endurance is not good, but her body is very flexible. She's able to bend her body forward, with her legs open, and stretch all the way to the ground.

"Leon-sama, where are you looking at?"

"Where....."

Alice is pushing her upper body against the ground while watching me with a mischievous smile. Each time her rich breasts pressed against the ground and changed shape.

"... It's a misunderstanding, I just thought that you are very supple."

"I see. Do you think that my breasts are supple?"

"Like I said it's a misunderstanding! Are you teasing me?"

"Ahahah, I'm sorry. But, Leon-sama is bad. You stare at me so closely. I was thinking Leon-sama had finally hit puberty."

I laugh under my breath at what she said. She still uses the usual honorific,

but I think she has become very soft. No, not her chest or body, but just in the way she interacts with me.

And then when I was doing my usual morning routine, Mary came to get me.

“Leon-sama, Robert-sama is calling for you. Please get ready, and go meet him in his office in the main house.”

“Wh-what’s wrong?”

“Please, ask Robert-sama for more details.”

Mary speaks bluntly and then turns her eyes to Alice.

“I see it was tough for you again today.”

“It’s tough to run, but it’s fun to exercise with Leon-sama, would you like to join Mary?”

“No, I have work that needs to be done. Now then.”

Mary gives a slight bow and leaves.

As usual she still only talks to me as little as possible, but Alice got along well with her. I feel like I’ve been defeated somehow.

...Well, it would be bad to keep my father waiting. I do not know what kind of business he has with me, but let’s go.

“I’m sorry Alice, but will you be fine by yourself? You can do what you want while I’m gone.”

“Yes, I’ll wait patiently for you. I won’t cause any problems, so please don’t worry about me, I’ll be fine.”

Why are you raising a flag like that so suddenly?

– Father wanted to let me know that the meeting with Sophia had been decided.

It seems that he told the Sfir family that I wanted to deepen my friendship with Sophia before marriage.

So a few days later.

Guards – I do not know whether to protect me from thieves, or to prevent me

from escaping, but – they escorted me to the Sfir family’s territory.

By the way, because the Sfir territory and our house are near each other, it only took three hours on a horse carriage to reach our destination. For that reason, I arrived at the house of the Sfir family.

“My name is Leon, the second son of the Grances family. Thank you for accepting my request.”

“I see you’ve made it here safe. I am Carlos, the head of the Sfir home, and this is my wife Elyse, I welcome you to my home.”

“Thank you very much.”

I bow once and then lift my eyes to look at Carlos and Elyse.

Carlos has brown hair and blue eyes? It is a bit surprising that the head of the Sfir family has brown hair, since blond hair should be most common in ancient noble families.

But, looking at Elyse, she has vibrant blonde hair.

“Leon-kun, you saw the land of the Sfir family on the way, but I’d like to know what you thought of it.”

“Umm.....”

Frankly speaking, it made me think of a typical calm rural area. But, the abundance of nature may not be a compliment in this world, is it?

“Dear, Leon-kun is only ten years old, you can only annoy him asking such a question.”

“Oh, you’re right. No, I am sorry, I was just concerned about how the land would look in the eyes of the famous Earl of Grances.”

“I think that it is a splendid land.”

“Fuu, is that so? Thank you.”

The possibility that Carlos thought my late reply was merely trying to flatter him is high, but those were my honest thoughts. From what Alice has taught me, with this much rich land, many things could be grown here.

I’ll bring that up if I decide to marry into the Sfir family.

“Well, Sophia is the main reason for this meeting.... Sorry...My daughter is shy so she knew that Leon-kun was coming, and she hid in her room.”

In her room.....hiding? Maybe for Sofia, is this an unwanted marriage? ..... I have no idea. It would be hard to believe a girl who has never met me could have fallen in love with me, and it seems that her parents decided the marriage without her permission.

“Well then....it would be hard for us to meet like this.”

“I will have my butler guide you, so try talking to her in her room.....Regis, please show Leon-kun to Sophia’s room.”

Carlos called out to an elderly man who was standing in the corner of the room.

Although he called them a butler, but he has a ridiculously good physique. Rather, he gives off the image of a retired veteran knight.

“Certainly, then Leon-sama, I will show you up to the young lady’s room – right this way.”

“Thank you very much.”

I left the living room following the butler along the hallway of the mansion.

“Regis-san, can I ask you a question?”

“I am just a butler, please just call me Regis. You don’t need to use any honorifics.”

Ah, that’s right. Because I am a child I used honorifics, but I am also the second son of the Earl of Grances. If I use honorifics when talking with a butler, would that cause problems for my family?

“Well then, Regis, can I ask you a question?”

“Please ask anything.”

“Sophia is against this marriage, right?”

“...If you are asking such a question, then I suppose you already have some expectations coming here?”

“Well, I’m scared of being married with someone I have never met, much less

Sophia is only seven years old, it wouldn't be unreasonable for her to be against it."

"I remember that you are ten years old Leon-sama, but you are very perceptive."

"Eh? Yeah...well, that's for a variety of reasons."

"Hmm, it looks like you've had a hard time these past years."

Yes. After fighting an illness with an incurable disease, I died and was reincarnated into another world. Of course I want to tell someone this. But, no, I don't say anything because I don't want people thinking I'm insane.

"But, I don't understand, why come to see Sophia if you expected her to be against the marriage?"

"If I had to get married anyway, I thought that it would be better if we both agreed to it together."

"Do you think you can convince her if you meet?"

"I don't know. We haven't met yet, though the possibility of love at first sight isn't zero, so it could happen, right?"

Because it is a political marriage negative thoughts are associated with the marriage right from the start. Though, when you think you're meeting a person with a view to marriage, from a family with a social standing similar to your own, with a partner only three years older, it should not seem like such a bad deal for this girl.

Though, going to a marriage interview — I'm feeling pretty uneasy as well.

Let's think positively.

"For the time being, I will try to become friendly with her."

"Are you going to work hard?"

"I have some tricks I can try. Can I use the kitchen before going to her room? I'll prepare my secret weapon beforehand."

Then I will finally meet with my fiancée.

## Chapter 2–6: Meeting with the Fiancée

The courtyard of the Sfir home. Sophia and I are sitting at a table across from each other.

I think that the warm breeze is pleasant and this is the best season to have a tea party in the courtyard...but Sofia hasn't said anything for quite some time now.

I asked Regis to take her out of her room a bit forcibly, so I feel I need to be a bit cautious.

By the way, I was curious about what Sophia would look like – but she is more cute than I had imagined.

Deep red eyes with medium length, shiny, gold hair. She was also a really beautiful girl that was said to look like an angel when she was a baby.

However, she seems to be pretty mature for her age. After all, children of this world seem to grow up pretty fast, including me.

“Ojou-sama, Leon-sama came from a long way away to see you, so why don't you ask him something?”

A maid with Sophia tries to get her to talk, but Sophia has no response. That's why I was very grateful to that maid for trying.

“Sorry, Leon-sama, Ojou-sama is very shy.”

“Don't worry about it, I'm fine.”

I reassure the uneasy maid and turn my eyes toward Sophia.

“Nice to meet you, my name is Leon. Hey Sofia, if you do not mind would you tell me your name?”

As I looked into Sophia's eyes, she stared back at my face with a confused expression. I already knew her name, so Sophia was confused as to why I was asking her to tell me her name.

However, Sophia is still cautious of me and still doesn't respond to me.

Therefore—

“Since I came all this way, I thought I’d like to hear it from you directly.”

I gently answer hoping to show her that I’m not a bad person. Sophia showed a surprised expression for a moment, followed by a slight smile.

“.....Sophia, my name is Sophia.”

Easy enough....it makes me feel a little bad coercing a little girl like this. No, no, it’s true I had to coerce her, but I just have to be sure not to abuse it.

Let’s talk to Sofia sincerely.

“Well then, Sophia. Do you like sweets?”

I say I’m going to talk to her sincerely and then try to get her to like me with sweets.....I can’t make any excuses.

“.....Sweets?”

“Yes, a very sweet and delicious snack.”

I send a signal to Regis who was near me. The black tea and custard pudding were lined up on the table.

“.....It is a somewhat mysterious type of cake.”

“It’s called pudding, it’s sweet and delicious, so please eat it if you’d like.”

“Well then, errr..... Let’s eat. “

Sophia is a bit weary. Her expression changed to complete surprise.

“Fuwa.....What is this? It’s so sweet and delicious.”

“I’m glad you like it so much.”

It is the same sweet the Claire fell in love with. It seems that it was also effective for a shy princess. It was worth putting the effort into making it.

“.....Such a thing, Sophia has never had anything like this. Did you make this, Leon-san?” (TN: This is Sophia talking, she refers to herself in third person occasionally) “Yeah, I borrowed the kitchen a little earlier and made it...but I’m surprised you understood so well.”

“Because I could sense as much.”

“Is that so.....?”

What is it that she senses? Perhaps I smell like the pudding? That could be possible.....Or is it something she was able to understand because we're sitting at a table outside?

“- Actually, Sophia Ojou-sama is able to read people's emotions.”

As I was confused, Regis told me this.

It certainly was a special talent that she was born with.....Does it benefit her to read emotions, does she know what the other person thinks?

Perhaps, she was curious as to what I'm thinking about – the look of surprise must have shown on my face as Sophia began to stare at me. At that moment, my eyes met with Sophia.

“Somehow, I'm able understand what Leon-san is thinking about.”

Is she serious...Well, does that mean she knows I thought she was a little strange a while ago?.....No, if that was the case she would probably still be cautious of me.

.....Oh yeah, Regis said that she's only able to read emotions a while ago.

That's it.

I felt guilty using petty tricks like the pudding to get Sophia to talk with me, but I want to talk honestly with her because I don't plan to deceive her. I feel as if she's vaguely able to understand these feelings.

As a result, Sophia judged that I held no ill will towards her – at least that's what I think she did.

.....I see. It is a tremendous ability, but I don't have a complete understanding of it, and it isn't necessary for me to be afraid if I don't hold any malice towards her.

“... Leon-san, aren't you afraid of Sophia? Aren't I creepy?”

“I was surprised, but I don't find you creepy.”

“Is that so.....”

While seemingly deep in thought, Sophia shows no signs of doubting my



words. With her ability I guess that she can tell that I'm not lying.

"I heard that you don't like to talk with people, is your ability the reason for that?"

".....Yes, people who know about Sophia's ability are usually afraid of Sophia."

"I see..."

Adults with ulterior motives are afraid of her abilities and innocent children fear her unknown power.

Sophia is a noblewoman – she is also the daughter of a Count. I guess there were lots of adults approaching her to use her for her position. That's why I understand why she would have so much distrust for people.

A girl that reminds me of Saya, carrying the same kind of hardships as us in my previous life. I kind of want to protect Sophia somehow.

"You do not have to worry about people who are afraid of your ability."

"....Eh?"

"You know people who are not afraid of your abilities Sophia, right? Don't worry about the people that are afraid of you. Just ignore them and spend time with the people that aren't afraid of you."

Of course, that is an extreme solution. People who are afraid of Sophia's ability could also be good people and I think that there are also people who may change their opinion of her given time to get to know her.

That's what I think anyway, hopefully more people would be able to accept her.

".....Leon-san is mysterious."

"You think so?"

"Yeah. It's the first time I've ever heard anyone say that. Everyone else has said that I should try harder to get along with people, and Leon-san's heart feels really warm."

"Warm huh, maybe that's because you resemble my younger sister and I feel

like I need to help you.”

“Leon-san, you have a younger sister?”

Woops. I carelessly let something slip.

I’m sure Sophia can tell I’m a little flustered. I wonder if it’s okay.....there’s no way she could guess that I’m talking about someone from my previous life, right?

“If I had a younger sister, I would think she would be like you.”

“Is that so?”

I wonder if she doubts my word. Sophia looks into my face. There is something I want to hide, but it’s not something to be ashamed of, so I return her gaze normally.

“Leon-san is still mysterious.....Hey, Leon-san, can I call you Leon onii-chan from now on?”

“Oh, okay...is that because I told you that you were like a younger sister?”

“I wonder? When I saw Leon-san, for some reason, I wanted to call you that.”

“...If you’d like to call me that, then go ahead.”

“Yes! Thank you, Leon onii-chan!”

That’s how I succeeded in getting to know Sophia. We enjoyed the rest of the tea and pudding while talking to each other.

Needless to say again, my family situation is pretty terrible.

So, when talking with people, I usually avoid answering any questions related to my family...but because Sophia is able to understand my feelings, it was very easy to talk with her because she would avoid any topics that were a bit hard for me to talk about.

“So Leon onii-chan is on good terms with Claire-san.”

“That’s right, Claire is an irreplaceable family member to me.”

“That must be nice, I’m envious of Leon onii-chan.”

“You have an older sibling too Sophia?”

“I have an older brother, but no older sister. Ever since Eric onii-chan joined the Order of the Knights he rarely ever visits.”

“Well, joining the Order he must be aiming to become a knight?”

“That’s right, Regis was saying that Eric onii-chan is very talented.”

“...Regis?”

As if he was just a butler, he seems to have served as the head of the Sfir Knights.

“I thought that your physique was very good, Regis.”

“It seems like Leon-sama is quite well-trained as well.”

“Proper swordsmanship is a little beyond my ability.”

Alice had no experience with sword fighting or any other style of fighting.

Although I do have some practice, but it’s more like two people practicing with wooden sticks rather than actual swordsmanship.

“Sophia also practices swordsmanship.”

“Huh, is that so?”

I imagine the childish Sophia practicing hard with a sword and it warms my heart.

– At that time, a maid came to me from the mansion. She whispered something to me.

“Leon-sama, preparations have been made for your return.”

“Oh, thank you. Then, I guess this is goodbye for now.”

I acknowledge the maids words and she leaves. I can see Sophia looking at me, she is on the verge of bursting out into tears.

“.....Leon onii-chan, are you leaving already?”

“Yeah, I’m sorry, I have to leave here soon. I need to return by the end of today.”

“Can’t you stay today and just return tomorrow?”

“That is...”

I am a child of a mistress and I am not allowed much freedom. No matter how much I may want to stay overnight, my escort guards would never allow it.

“.....I’m sorry”

Sophia muttered that suddenly. She was probably able to read my feelings.

“I’m sorry, I don’t dislike being told that you want me to stay, but I definitely have to go back home today.”

“Yeah, I understand..... then Leon onii-chan, will you come and visit again?”

“Of course, I promise, I will definitely come and visit again.”

“.....Okay, then I’ll be waiting, it’s a promise.”

In this way, I finished my meeting with Sophia safely and returned to the Grances’ territory.

However—

“Leon-sama! Alice-san, Alice-san has been taken!”

When I returned I was greeted by these desperate words from Mary.

## Chapter 2–7: To Find Happiness

“Alice was taken.....by who?”

“That is.....Blake-sama...”

“- What! That guy came here?”

“He had asked me a short while ago when you’d be away. It seems his objective from the beginning was Alice.”

“Alice was his objective.....”

That reminds me, when Claire brought Alice, Blake walked in on us. Maybe, he has been watching Alice from that time?

.....No, I can ask questions later. Now I must help Alice.

“When was Alice taken?”

“.....Are you– are you planning on saving her? Do you know what will happen if you act against Blake?”

“....I know.”

Turning Blake into an enemy means turning Caroline into an enemy. I have to prepare for the worst.

But, still, I can’t just abandon Alice.

“Mary, this is an emergency, I’ll definitely help Alice. But, Claire can’t find out about this.”

I tell Mary this and quickly turn to run out of the room to help Alice. I stopped after hearing Mary call out to me.

“Blake took Alice this way, you should be able to catch up if you hurry. Please, bring Alice back.”

“You can trust me, I will definitely bring her back!”

I sprinted out the doorway and headed straight to the mansion. The sun had sank completely over the horizon and the road leading to the mansion had been

died a pale blue from the light of the blue moon.

I run along the road leading to the mansion, relying on the light of torches put up alongside the path. About halfway to the mansion, I could hear the voices of Alice and a man arguing.

“Don’t think you’re in a position to defy me!”

“I’m not your slave, I belong to Leon-sama!”

“If you’re his slave, then you belong to me as well! Do not resist me, quickly take off your clothes and kneel!”

That disgusting older brother! What is he trying to do to Alice!?

I clench my fist and run toward the bush where the voices can be heard.

“Only Leon-sama is my master! I don’t care what you say!”

“Keep resisting. Do you not realize how terrible I can make his life?”

“——”

“Fuu, apparently I’ve found a way to make you cooperative. Now, do as I said earlier.”

“You coward!”

“.....Coward, you say, I’m a coward!? You must be joking!”

I could hear a loud slap echo out from the direction of their voices, at the same time I could hear Alice let out a muffled yell. Almost at the same time, I broke through the bushes and jumped out to a small clearing.

I could see Blake standing over Alice with his right hand held high. Alice was kneeling on the ground holding her cheek.

“...Alice!”

I rushed over to Alice.

“.....Leon-sama? Why are you here.....I’m fine, so please go back, Leon-sama.”

Alice’s eyes are filled with desperation. I immediately disregard what she had just said to me. It’s clear why she would say something like that, I could hear

Blake threatening her earlier.

Good grief even at a time like this, this girl is worrying about me – I let out a bitter smile. I gently stroke Alice 's cherry blossom colored hair to make her feel safe.

“....Leon-sama?”

“It'll be fine Alice. We made a promise together, remember?”

We'll become happy together — I think to myself without saying it out loud.

“.....Leon-sama.....Yes!”

I stroke Alice's head once more and stand up, turning toward Blake. He was trembling with anger.

“.....You...why are you here?”

“That's what I should be asking, bringing Alice to such a place, what on earth were you planning on doing?”

“Well, that much should be obvious, that beautiful girl is wasted on you. I will make her my woman.”

His answer was what I expected, what a low-life. With that answer alone I almost lose any control I have left, but I must remain calm, if I don't I won't be able to protect Alice properly. I desperately hold back my anger.

“....Alice is my slave. Even if I have to make you my enemy, I won't let you have her.”

“Do you understand what you're saying, or do you honestly think you can resist me? If you do not give me that woman, you realize how severely my mother can punish you?”

.....He's seriously the worst. Besides, it is troublesome that in this world, even more so in this mansion, what he's saying is completely true.

If she were to punish me in some way, there are possibilities that Alice will be expelled like Milli, or even worse there is a chance that Alice would be officially made Blake's slave.

“It seems that you finally know your place, now give up, leave the woman and

return to your pathetic home.”

Sorry for being so self-indulgent. I can't accept a demand like that.

“What's wrong, didn't you hear me? Don't worry, I will return it if I get bored.”

Blake says such vulgar words with a lecherous face. His face, which is illuminated by the dancing flames of the nearby torches, looks even more disgusting.

I want to hit that face right now...but that's impossible.

If you think about our physical differences, I can't win. Even if I was able to get out of this situation by force, it would be meaningless because Blake would still hold power over me with Caroline.

Calm down. I can't save Alice if I make a mistake here. I need to remain calm and think clearly about this.

It is out of the question. It's not like I can just ask for forgiveness. So, in order to survive this situation, I need to get Blake to give up himself....

The objective of Blake here is Alice herself. And the reason for that is because Blake is lustful towards Alice. In other words, if Alice is unattractive to him, will Blake lose interest?

If so —

“.....Alice, do you trust me?”

I whisper to Alice, and she nods immediately.

“What are you whispering about?”

“It's nothing serious, I merely commanded her to spend the night with you.”

I stood up suppressing my anger and spoke with a polite tone.

“...Fuu. At last you've given up? It would have been much easier if you just acted obediently from the beginning.”

“I'm sorry, you are right — nii-san.”

The moment Blake feels as if he's won, I called him nii-san. Immediately,



Blake's face contorts with anger just like that day.

"...You...what did you just say?"

"Oh, nii-san, did I say something strange, nii-san?"

"I told you never to call me your older brother, you are just the filthy child of a mistress!"

It's different from that day, there's nothing nearby for him to throw. That's why he begins to approach me to hit me himself. That's why I spoke quickly before he could close the distance.

"Have you misunderstood something? Wasn't it you that approved of me as your brother first?"

"...What are you saying?"

I guess he's curious about what I mean. Blake stopped moving towards me.

"Alice is my slave, right?"

"What are you trying to say!?"

"Haa, you don't understand it yet?"

"That's why I asked what you are trying to say! Speak quickly!"

"Like~I~said, this is how it is"

I embraced Alice sitting behind me and grabbed her ample breasts.

"-Hyan!"

I have to make it believable. Alice lets out a surprised voice, but she doesn't show any signs of resistance. Good this should help it be more convincing, I played with Alice's breasts. Every time I move my hand Alice lets out a sweet voice.

..... I thought they were big, but these are truly amazing. I guess my hands are small, but they're so soft.....So bras don't exist in this world?

..... No, I need to stop thinking so much about them.

"You! What are you trying to do!?"

"What, do you still not understand? This is how it is between us."

I pulled the collar of her clothes with the hand not currently grasping her chest and revealed Alice's neck. There is a kiss mark on her white skin.

Adjusting Alice's position so Blake can see it clearly by the light of the torches, I show a vulgar smile on purpose.

"I've trained Alice for over a year. I taught her what I like every evening since I've got her. What makes me happy, what pleases me, everything all in order to better serve me."

"What are you saying...."

.....Hmm? What is this reaction. Perhaps, did he not even know the reason that Alice was brought to me? Come on, he should've at least investigated that much.

However, this is actually more convenient this way.

"You want to embrace Alice, right? Having relations with the same woman is rather brotherly. This meaning, you must understand that as well, right nii-san?"

"....You bastard....."

His face has become dark red and his veins begin to burst out of his neck and head.

"Aah~, I'm sorry. You're not my older brother. You've just become attracted to a woman that I've trained to my liking. So why not just say you want to embrace a woman that has been trained by your younger brother.....Trained by your otouto-kun?"

"You must be kidding!"

A furious Blake comes running at me. I saw it and moved to the side so that Alice would be out of harm's way. At this time, I was beaten up by Blake.

"Do not get carried away! I was just playing with you, who would be interested in a woman that would be with a disgusting child like you!"

Blake keeps cursing at me who had been knocked to the ground, and keeps on kicking me further.

After kicking me more than ten times, Blake's anger seemed to subside. He let out a sharp breath and began to walk away.

I kept rolling around on the grass and confirmed that Blake had actually left. Then I got up after counting for thirty seconds.

".....Haa~, we're safe"

At that moment Alice hugs me from behind.

"Leon-sama, Leon-sama, Leon!"

"... Alice, are you okay? I had to do terrible things to you, are you alright?"

"I am fine, you're the one I'm worried about. Are you okay!?"

"I'm fine, I was able to block most of his kicks."

It's a complete lie. When he was beating me I tried my best to block, but being in a vulnerable position like that made it nearly impossible. There was also an even bigger difference in our strength than I had imagined, so I took quite a bit of damage.....It was worth it to keep Alice safe.

"I'm sorry, Alice. You had to be with such a disgusting man."

"I am fine, but you didn't need to provoke him so much! What if you had been killed!?"

"No, I knew he wouldn't hold back...at one point I was afraid he wasn't ever going to stop."

It's impossible for me to be certain that Blake wouldn't have gone even further. If he had a sword, I feel like there would have been a strong possibility of him attacking me with it.

"If you knew that, then why would you do such a thing!?"

"Because there was no other way for me to help you, Alice."

"I...I wouldn't want to be saved if it meant losing you, Leon-sama!"

"Alice.....?"

"Do you know how it made me feel seeing you get kicked!?"

"When I was being kicked?"

Well, Alice did not try to stop him. If Alice had tried anything, I was worried that the anger of Blake would turn to Alice.

“If I had tried to help you in the fight, all of the good you were trying to do for me would’ve been wasted. I had to force myself to stay out of the fight because I knew you were trying to protect me.”

“I see, you guessed my true intention.”

“Yes, I did, but I wanted to help so badly. I would rather face the consequences myself, then to have you be hurt in my place. So please never do anything like that again!”

“Alice....”

Alice never underestimates herself. She always lives in full force, trying to find her happiness. That Alice, she would rather endure whatever she had to, rather than see me get hurt.....

Uwa, what do I do? Alice wanted to protect me as much as I wanted to protect her – thinking about that makes me pretty happy.

“.....Leon-sama, you said that you have to become happy. How do you plan on doing that if you’re so willing to put your life in danger? Or were you lying when you said that you want to be happy?”

“.....It wasn’t a lie... But that’s why I did it, because I want to be happy together. I decided to help Alice even if it was dangerous.”

“What do you mean.....?”

“...I feel the same way as Alice... I don’t want you to be a victim. I would never want to abandon you in order to save myself. If that were to ever happen I could never become happy.”

I embrace Alice, who had been holding my arms.

“Leon...sama?”

“You said,” Let’s be happy together .”

The same words as one year ago – but with a little different meaning now. Alice, who had stiffened her body, relaxed in my embrace.

“...Is it ok for me to believe you?”

“I’m not lying, these are my true feelings. If you believe me, I will protect Alice with all of my power, because it’s something I need to do to make myself happy....”

Although we were able to survive the encounter with Blake, he still may report back to Caroline — Alice and I could be separated as soon as tomorrow.

Under such circumstances, there is no way I can guarantee that everything will be okay.

“My position in the family is the lowest, I was able to manage somehow this time, but next time I will not be able to do anything. Still – “

“Still, I believe Leon-sama.”

“Are you sure? Even if I truly want to protect you, I’m not sure I’ll be able to do anything the next time something like this happens.”

“If your feelings are genuine, than that is enough, and I will not only be protected by you. I will also protect Leon-sama for my own happiness, because it’s something I need to do to make myself happy.”

Alice smiled a little, embarrassed.

“Well, then, we need to protect each other.”

“–For each other’s happiness.”

“That’s right, first of all, we need to deal with the matter at hand.”

“Is it that Blake-sama may still do something?”

“.....I don’t know.”

I honestly have no idea what Blake will do. Would he rather hide what happened out of embarrassment, or come up with a fake story about what happened in order to get revenge on me?

“I’m not sure, so we’ll probably have to prepare for the worst case scenario.”

“That’s right. If we prepare for the worst case scenario, we are less likely to be surprised by anything that may happen. It would be better than staying optimistic and possibly getting hit with the worst possible outcome and not

being able to recover.”

If Blake makes up a story to tell to Caroline, she will definitely become an enemy.

If that were to happen, we would need something that would allow us to negotiate with Caroline, but...either way this situation would be very difficult on Claire.

If that’s the case, there is only one person that can help.

“The only option is to meet with Father.”

“...Robert-sama? Will he really be on your side?”

“I’m not sure...”

Perhaps, I think that he will, at the very least, hear my side of the story. But, I’m not sure if he will be on my side. And even if he were to be on my side, it is a completely different matter whether he’d be able to protect both Alice and I entirely.

Even so, if there are no other options for us, there’s nothing else I can do. I’m just going to try my best here, so that we can live freely and be happy.

=====

Just thought I’d add this image at the end. Seems like there’s been a lot of confusion over some character descriptions. This picture doesn’t have Sophia or Alice, but hopefully it will help some people out.

This image isn’t from the light novel and not even sure if it’s official art. But, they do look like the characters from the light novel.



# Chapter 3–1: Father’s Feelings

I sent Alice back to the guest house, as I headed towards the mansion. I have no time to waste, Blake could act at any moment.

That’s why I now stood at the entrance to my Father’s study. I confirmed that he was in the room and then stepped into the door.

“...Leon? What are you doing...”

Because I entered without knocking, Father is a little cautious of me.

“Father, I’m sorry for the sudden visit, but I just wanted to talk a little. So if you can, could you spare a little time for me?”

“.....You just wanted to talk? Is it something so important you needed to suddenly visit me like this?”

“Actually earlier – -“

I tell Father everything that happened earlier leaving out no detail. After hearing my story, he lets out a sigh.

“Indeed, I understand why you needed to talk with me so suddenly, but what do you expect me to do? Surely, you don’t just want me to punish Blake?”

“No, of course not, even if you were to do something like that, it would only put me in a worse position.”

“Yes, I know you understand that Blake will come up with some story to tell Caroline, and she will believe it without a doubt. So, why did you come to me if you already understand that much?”

“I...I came here to protect someone important to me.”

“Someone important? Are you speaking about the girl, Alice?”

“She is one of them.”

At first, I wanted to protect my promise with Saya — this was the only thing that gave me a reason to live for so long.

But eight years after I was reincarnated in this world, things that I hold dear to

me have increased. If I lose any of these precious things, I can never be happy.

“.....You’re saying you want the power to defend everything you hold dear, do you intend to become my heir?”

“No, it’s the opposite.”

“...What do you mean?”

“My life is made more difficult because Caroline is wary of me trying to threaten Blake’s position, right? I came here to say that I am not interested in becoming the heir to the Grances family.”

“In other words, by declaring that you will not be the heir, you would like a guarantee of some sort of freedom?”

“Almost, I would like you to guarantee the safety of Alice as well. If this is something you can do, then I would like you to write up a document guaranteeing our safety.”

Actually I want Milli to come back as well and I hope that there is something I can do about Claire’s marriage. But there is no way Caroline would ever agree to any of that.

So for now, I am only able to protect Alice.

“..... Hmm...well it’s possible, but I’m surprised, I thought you were more ambitious than this.”

“Because I don’t need an elevated position to live a happy life. It is enough if I am able to stay with the people most important to me..... Actually, I would also like it if we were able to become closer.”

I add that last little bit at the end. At that moment my father’s face was dyed with surprise.

“You...you don’t bear a grudge against me?”

“I don’t hate you....At least not entirely. I know it’s hard to believe, but I can’t bring myself to hate my family.”

“Because we are family, you forgive me?”

“I think that I would like to get to know you, if possible, and I do feel some



sympathy for Caroline.”

“Fuu, is that so?”

“I’m not trying to speak to your conscience, and when it comes to Blake..... Although I can never forgive him for the way he treated Alice, I still don’t want to fight him if possible.”

“You...you have a big heart. Milli has raised you well.”

Father looks away with an emotional gaze. Somehow his appearance looked very lonely just now.

“.....Can I ask you one thing?”

“What is it?”

“Father, how did you feel about Milli?”

The moment I asked, Father opened his eyes wide.

“Do you know that Milli is your mother?...No, it was just you two together for a long time, it’s only natural that you’d know.”

“No, I didn’t know about it until after Milli had already left.”

“I see....Milli was an honest person.”

I wonder if he is feeling nostalgic of the past? Father turned his eyes to look out of the window, becoming lost in thoughts of the past.

“.....You were asking what I thought of Milli.”

“Yes. What did you think of her....”

“Of course I loved her. No, I still love her.”

I am a little surprised after hearing my father’s words. I could tell by the way he was acting that he never hated Milli, but I wasn’t expecting such a straightforward answer.

“Then....why....why didn’t you stop Milli from leaving?”

“That is because I felt guilty to Carol.”

“Is that so.....”

Caroline is my father's legal wife. Milli is only a mistress. That's why I couldn't say anything once I was told he felt guilty to Caroline.

".....Carol and I are childhood friends, we have been friends with each other for a long time, and with that kind of relationship, it was decided that we would get married."

"Is that so, then two people that loved each other ended up together."

".....No, we thought of each other like siblings, we did not see each other as a man and woman. Besides, Carol had someone that she loved, but as I'm sure you know, children from a noble family have no right to choose who they marry."

".....A political marriage."

"It is true that we may have been close friends and maybe even a good match with one another.....But, there is no doubt that it was an unwanted marriage for both of us. But...we couldn't refuse, we chose to live together and support each other. In fact, Carol and I really did all we could to support each other and make each other happy."

"Until you met Milli – right?"

"Yes, I was attracted to Milli. I distanced myself from Carol. I could not bring myself to act like I loved her any longer."

"Well, then why did you isolate Milli...?"

"I still wanted to have Milli at my side. Although I don't love Carol, it does not change the fact that Carol is important to me, so I wanted to do whatever I could to alleviate the pain I had caused her. I'm not asking you to understand, but...."

"Is that so....."

.....In the end, everyone is a victim of the rules of the nobility.

It may be impossible now, but.....I would like it if someday Father, Caroline and even Blake could become closer with me.

.....No, as for Blake, it is impossible for us to get along as it is. I don't want to completely give up on him, but I feel like it is the job of the entire family to help

fix his ways.

“May I ask you a question now?”

“.....What is it?”

“....Did Milli hate me?”

“The entire time we were together I never knew she was my mother, but not once did I hear her say anything negative about you.”

“I see...”

At that time Father showed an expression of either guilt or regret. Or was it relief? The expression I saw on his face was complicated and I couldn't tell what he was feeling.

## Chapter 3–2: My Sisters Are My Romantic Interests?

In exchange for saying that I do not want to become the heir to the Grances family, I was assured that Alice and I would remain safe, I was finally able to return home.

When I returned home, Mary questioned me immediately.

“Welcome home, Leon-sama. You’re returning quite late....What have you been doing this late?”

“Ah, I just needed to have a talk with my father.”

“...I was surprised at how long you were gone. I see, would you tell me what you talked about?”

“I don’t mind telling you what we talked about– it’s not like any of it was meant to stay secret – I’m sure Father would gladly tell you about it himself. I’m more surprised that you seem like you were worried about me.”

“.....The reason for that is, you were true to your word and you saved Alice-san.”

Aah. That explains it.

Alice was the reason for her concern. Although, it’s not like I actually thought Mary cared about me.....Well, it’s a good thing that Alice has more friends.

“Thank you, Mary. If it wasn’t for you telling me that Alice had been kidnapped, I wouldn’t have been able to save her in time. Really, thank you.”

When I showed her my gratitude, Mary had a look of embarrassment mixed with surprise.

“.....To be honest, I thought that Alice was inconsequential to Leon-sama, so I was surprised that you were so desperate to save her.”

It was a terrible misunderstanding – and I quickly held back the words I wanted to say.

Mary is still watching me for Caroline. Because of this, I can't let her know how important Alice is to me.

"It's only because Alice has been good to me every night."

I told her this to hopefully get rid of any suspicions she may have. It seems that she believed me as her eyes quickly filled with disdain. If I could hear her inner thoughts I'm guessing it would be something like, "This child is the worst, he's completely obsessed with sex."

"By the way, where is Alice?"

"Alice is currently in the bath."

".....Eh?"

Was I too late in getting to her when Blake had her? Is that the reason? I feel uneasy. But it seems Mary could sense my anxiety and said, "It seems she was covered in sweat when she returned."

Geez, don't surprise me like that.

"Well then, please tell her to come to my room when she's dressed."

".....Of course."

Eyes full of disgust. I feel like I can hear her saying, "You're going after a girl that just got done bathing, do you have no self control?" Wait, I feel like I really heard her say that!

"Ah, umm, I feel like you're misunderstanding."

"I'm sorry I didn't hear what you said....did you need something?"

"No, it's not that I need anything."

"I see. Then, please, excuse me."

Well...I guess it's okay this way. After all this is what I wanted her to think about Alice and my relationship. At least now I know the reason she doesn't talk to me.

Thinking about it from Mary's perspective, I'm as bad as Blake was today. I'm a devil child repeating that act every night. Well, it's only natural that she would hate me.

I feel depressed for a few minutes after thinking about this.

I could hear a small knock on the door; at the same time I could hear Alice's voice outside the door. I guess she was checking to see if I had returned. When I answer her, Alice rushed inside the room.

"Leon-sama, are you okay!?"

"I'm fine, so sit down and let me tell you about what happened."

I tell her that I have given up on becoming the heir to the Grances family. In return my father has guaranteed the safety of myself and Alice.

"No way.....Giving up all of that, for me, is that really okay?"

"Honestly, I've never been interested in the position. If I could guarantee your safety by making that clear to everyone, it was a small price to pay."

"But, there were other things you could've asked for, such as bringing Milli-san back. I feel bad that you and Milli-san will still be separated because you chose to protect me."

"It's fine. You were in the most danger, so I decided to protect you."

And Milli is hated by Caroline. If Milli's reemployment was a condition of the agreement, there would've been a high possibility that Caroline would not have agreed to the deal.

".....Even if it is a lie, I wanted you to say that I was most important to you."

".....Eh?"

To my surprise, when I looked at Alice's face, Alice showed a slight smile and stuck her tongue out.

"Kidding. You couldn't tell I was joking?"

"Don't tease me, I'm just a innocent child."

"Haha, who are you saying is an innocent child?"

"Can't you tell I'm innocent just by looking? What will you do if you really hurt my feelings?"

"It'll be fine."

“What do you mean fine?”

“I mean, I’d never say anything that would actually hurt you.”

I smile a little, embarrassed. Alice shows a wry smile on her face.

“E~e, should we get back to the main topic now?”

“Yep, let’s do that.”

I gently change the subject, I still need to find a way to help Claire.

“In any case, we just need to wait for Caroline’s decision, but I think it’s likely she’ll agree. So the biggest problem left to deal with now is Claire’s marriage.”

“Claire-sama? She recently went to a marriage meeting, right?”

“It seems so.”

To be accurate, it wasn’t a normal marriage meeting. The meeting took place at a ball that had powerful families from many places, it seems that there were arrangements made in advance so there was also a masquerade held that was designed to have several children of the nobility meet with each other.

At this ball, Claire seems to have danced with a 19 year old marquis. His personality and appearance weren’t bad...For these reasons it seems like Claire isn’t allowed to refuse this marriage.

That’s why Claire had visited me to complain about the marriage.

“Then, if you want to stop Claire-sama’s marriage, wouldn’t it have been better for you to become the heir to the Grances family?”

“.....You say it like it’s an easy thing to do.”

“If Leon-sama puts your mind to it, wouldn’t it be easy?”

“Honestly it would be impossible. There’s only one year left until Claire’s marriage. No matter how hard I try, it would be impossible to become heir in that time.”

“Maybe so...but...don’t you have any other ideas?”

“I have some ideas, but they’ll all take too much time.”

The Grances family really wants this marriage to happen. If Claire marries this

marquis the Grances family would stand to make a large profit.

In other words, if I can find a way to make a larger profit for the family, it may be possible to earn Claire's freedom. So the problem is whether or not I can find some way to produce a profit large enough to use as a negotiation material.

It might be possible if I use the power of the Grances family as a shortcut to reach the needed profit, but in that case Caroline would probably notice what I'm trying to do.

There is the option to negotiate with Caroline beforehand, but it is difficult to put together a believable story within a year and then also produce the needed profits.

"It seems like it will be pretty tough.....Well then, what happened with Leon-sama's fiancée? You visited the Sfir family today, right?"

"Oh yeah, Sophia was a very cute girl. Though, she's still quite young so she felt like more of a younger sister."

"Like a little sister...So she's like a love interest?"

"What!? It was fun to be together, but that doesn't make her my love interest!"

"Really?"

"Eh, why are you making a face like that?"

"Well....Look at Claire-sama, you're trying so desperately to help her because you love her."

"No, that's just because.....It's just a love between brother and sister, okay?"

"A sister could be a love interest to her brother."

"What are you saying? Do you want me to be interested in my sister?"

"Is there a problem with that?"

Huh, Alice looked at me with a straight face. Perhaps it is a normal thing in this world?

.....Huh, being born in Japan I realize I have a different sense of values, but....this is a bit much.



After all, even if I've died I can't forget those values I was raised with.

"Alice, do you have any brothers?"

".....E-eh, I did."

Her deep blue eyes darken. I see, she used past tense when referring to her brothers.

".....sorry"

"No, please don't worry. It's something I've already got over."

She's gotten over it? After all, when I asked about them Alice's face reflected a sad past. Then I noticed the hair ornament that was in Alice's cherry blossom colored hair.

"You said that hair ornament was very important to you, right?"

".....Eh?"

"That silver ornament. When we first met you said that it was an important memento and you didn't want me to take it from you."

"Oh, yes, it's something that I have to remember my brother."

".....Do you not want to talk about it?"

"No, it's fine. This hair ornament belonged to my older brother."

.....Belonged to her brother, huh..... No matter how you look at it, it's a hair ornament for a woman. With her reaction it seems like it would be better if I didn't press any further.

I don't fully understand it, but there's no way Alice is hiding any malicious intentions. I'll just pretend like I didn't notice anything.

More importantly, I need to decide what to do now.

First, about Alice. Someday I want to release her from slavery, but currently I have no way of accomplishing this. So, for now, I'll need to put that off for a while.

About Milli. As I've already confirmed, Milli is living in a peaceful place in her hometown, there is no need for me to hurry to help her. So this problem too

can be put off for now.

Then, there are the problems of Claire and myself, but...I still have a relatively long time to find a solution for our problems. So, first, I guess I'll need to deal with Claire's problem.

## Chapter 3–3: My Sisters Are My Romantic Interests? Part 2

Claire usually comes to play once every few days. I thought that if I waited she would come visit after awhile—but I didn't have to wait long.

The next day after eating breakfast, when I was relaxing in my room, Claire suddenly burst into the room.

.....Didn't something like this happen before?

"Claire, what's happened now?"

"What's happened!? Is it true that otouto-kun fought with Blake nii-san!?"

"Eh, where did you hear that?"

"Blake nii-san was talking about it at breakfast."

.....Are you serious. I thought he might say something, but I didn't expect him to just be talking about it so openly. I'm glad that I talked with Father yesterday.

No, it's still too early for me to feel relieved.

"How did Caroline react to it?"

"At first she was angry, but Father stopped her, afterwards we were kicked out so they could talk alone."

"Well, it seems like he's keeping his promise. Everything else is up to Caroline now."

"Your expression...did you say something to Father yesterday? Actually what happened between you and Blake nii-san? I've never seen him so mad before."

"Was he really that angry?"

"Blake nii-san said that you attacked him for no reason, but he was still able to beat you up. Is this really what happened?"

".....well, the end result is true. It's true that I was beaten up."

"You were really beaten up? Are you okay?"

Claire approaches me while shaking her head, her platinum blonde hair moving side to side. She starts looking over my body for signs of any injuries.

“Claire, that’s ticklish, I’m okay because I was able to avoid most of his attacks.”

It is true that I avoided most of his attacks to my face. Though, the place where I was kicked is covered in bruises, but I don’t want to worry Claire, so I keep acting tough.

“That’s good, but...what really happened?”

Actually — and I told Claire what happened. I talked about how yesterday Alice was about to be taken away by Blake. I told her about what I had talked about with Father and how I had negotiated for Alice’s guaranteed safety.

“I see. There was such a thing that happened.”

“Yep, I know it depends on Caroline’s decision, but do you think it will work?”

“I don’t think there is any problem. Mother is pretty cautious of otouto-kun.”

“Is her caution due to what happened with the influenza outbreak?”

“Yes. The number of people calling for you to become the next heir have increased since then. So if you declare that you will not become the next heir, Mother is sure to accept.”

“Is that so? I feel relieved after hearing that.”

“I think so...but... Alice seems to have become very important to you.”

“Well, she has been teaching me so much.”

When I answer with a meaning towards thanking Claire, for some reason she has a mischievous smile.

“She’s taught you so much.....Hey, does that also include sexual knowledge?”

“Wha-. What are you saying!?”

“What...aren’t you learning so that you can lead me?”

Lead? What is she talking about....Now I remember. When Claire was trying to get me to take her first time, I said something like that in order to get out of it.

“You were serious...”

“Do you think I would joke about something like that?”

“.....It would be better if you were joking.”

Seriously Claire, does she like me as more than a brother?.....No, I don't want to hear her answer as it is likely to shock me.

“But, I see. Alice knows quite a lot and has taught otouto-kun about various things that you wanted to know.”

“And that's thanks to you. Didn't I tell you?”

“I thought it was somewhat like that, but since Mary is always around, this is the first time we've been able to talk openly.”

“Ah is that so, it's been a long time since it's been just the two of us together.”

“.....Just the two of us?”

Claire's cheeks turned red when she realized, we were sitting together with only a small amount of space separating us.

.....what is this, that girly reaction. Don't think of your brother as a man. Paired with the previous conversation, it will be troubling for me!

– I want to say something, but I feel like I will lose any self-respect I have if I say it. I pretend not to notice her reaction and continue the conversation normally.

“Alice really knows a lot, she has knowledge of magic, she's taught me a lot about plants and I'm learning about the neighboring countries as well.”

“.....Magic? That girl, she can use magic?”

“It seems that her magic is currently sealed by the slave contract, though the knowledge is there —“

I place my right arm in front of my chest and convert mana that I pull from my body into magical power.

By the way, mana seems to be an invisible matter that exists in the atmosphere. I think that I am able to create the most basic matter currently. It

is this matter that becomes the source of magical power.

It is taken into the body and converted into magical power.

“There’s a pale glow emitting from your arm, is that magic?”

“This is only the magical power necessary to use magic. I’ll actually use this power to cast spells....magic cannot be cast without the proper incantation.

–Although, there is a method to learn without the support of a magician. Though, the degree of difficulty is quite high, so I abandoned it because it was impossible to try it.

“That...is it important for you to learn that?”

“It is. When I learn magic someday, it will be important to have mastered the basics. It is the same reason to train your body before practicing swordsmanship.”

“...Well, as long as otouto-kun is happy.”

“Of course I’m very happy. Actually, I wanted to learn more about Alice, but she has only told me a little.”

“It makes sense that you’d want to learn more about the legendary high elves.”

“High elves?”

“A tribe that is said to be the dominant species of elves. I know the basics about them because knowledge is generally passed from generation to generation by the parents of noble families.”

“Well.....Indeed, there is a possibility that Alice is a high elf.”

“...Just checking, but are you joking?”

“Eh, what do you mean?”

“It’s truly impossible, high elves are a legendary race with only a few people, and if Alice were a high elf, the color of her left and right eyes should be different.”

“I see.”

I thought that with all of her knowledge it would be possible that Alice was a high elf. But both of Alice's eyes are deep blue.....After all, maybe it was just my imagination.

“—Hey, otouto-kun!”

Suddenly Claire came close to me

“Wh-what?”

“I just thought of something! The way you acted to save Alice from Blake, couldn't you do something similar to save me from my marriage candidate!?”

“.....Let me think about it....I would be killed by Caroline, so it sounds rather unpleasant.”

Asking me to say that I do stuff like that to her at her marriage interview!? I wanted to cry thinking of saying that Claire was my plaything every night.

Well if I did do that there would be no doubt that the marriage would end. Along with my life.

“Yeah, I guess that wouldn't work.....and I thought it was such a good idea.”

“That's ridiculous. So, is the marriage so bad?”

“My partner this time is a marquis. Mother is very enthusiastic about that, I think it will be impossible to run away this time.”

“In that case, the only option I see is to find a bargaining chip.”

“...What's a bargaining chip? What are you planning now?”

“Caroline is forcing this marriage because marrying a marquis would be very beneficial to the Grances house. So, if I can find something more valuable to her or the family, I think I can earn your freedom.”

“Otouto-kun, maybe, have you been trying to find a way to break off my marriage?”

“I'm thinking about it a lot.”

“I see. Otouto-kun, you've been worrying about me.....”

Claire's reaction is a bit unexpected. She mumbled something, clearly happy.

The way she pushed her index fingers together in front of her chest was quite cute.

“Why are you so surprised? Did you think I wouldn’t be worried about you?”

“Fuu~~, I see, of course you were. Alright, it’s decided.”

“Cl-Claire? Hey, what are you doing?”

Timidly I called out to Claire. This could be bad, maybe she’s expecting too much of me? If she expects too much, she’ll be disappointed if I’m not successful.

“U-Umm, Claire, I am working on a plan, but nothing is certain yet. So, it’s nice that you’re so happy, but don’t get too excited yet.”

“.....Plan?”

Ah, she finally settled down.

“Yeah, my plan, I’m trying to figure out a way to start earning money. But, currently I don’t have any funds to start the business or any way of distributing the product I produce. Starting from the ground up would be too time consuming.”

At first I was planning on making sweets, such as the pudding I’ve made before. I’d be able to make them cheaply and then sell them at various places at an increased price, but.....honestly this isn’t necessary. There would be no need to make sweets if I can find a way to mass-produce sugar. If I am able to start up some sugarcane fields, I should be able to make a considerable income.

The problem is my lack of funds and a workforce able to produce the needed sugar.

“Do you need someone to help?”

“Yeah, but is there anybody that can?”

“Yeah, Gramp is always looking for new business opportunities. I think that if otouto-kun were to talk with him, he’d be interested.” (TN: Translated: グランブ as Gramp for this character’s name. If anyone has a better suggestion let me know. I think it’s accurate, but just a weird name.) It was a name I didn’t recognize, so when I asked Claire about it, she told me it was the name of the



marquis. That would be meaningless.

“If we were to receive aid from him, you wouldn’t be able to refuse the marriage.”

“I know.....but then, is there no other way to go through with your plan?”

“Well, the only people I know outside of this place is the Sfir family. Wait. Is there anyway to contact them?”

“...What are you talking about? If we get help from the Sfir family you wouldn’t be able to refuse the marriage either, right?”

“No, unlike Claire and your partner, the second son and second daughter of a noble family are different, so I think that it may be possible depending on the negotiations.”

Sophia’s older brother is supposed to succeed the Sfir family and, in an extreme case, Sophia and I wouldn’t be such a bad match.

“I think it may be possible...What if you can’t do it without agreeing to the marriage?”

“Well, then.....Sophia wouldn’t be such a bad partner.”

“Did you really like Sophia that much? You only met with her recently, right?”

“She is a good girl and her appearance is quite cute. I think she would be as good of a partner I could ask for in a political marriage. But, she is still just a little girl, so I think of her more like a little sister.”

“A sister could still be a love interest, right?”

Et tu, Brute – Claire has been saying something like this for a while now.

To be honest, my true feelings cause me to waver a little. When I returned from my meeting with Sophia, I was considering marrying her.

However, I am worried about the story I heard from Father.

Father married someone that was like a sister to him, but he could not love her as a woman. As a result, he has been attracted to other women and now.....

In other words, I am anxious that I might follow the same path as my father.

If I were to become the head of the Grances family, depending on my partner, following the path of my father may not be so terrible.

But in my case I will join the Sfir family, so I can't have something like a mistress.

Not like I want something like a mistress anyway, but I wish I could always think of Sophia as a little sister.

"Otouto-kun? What's wrong?"

"Oh, sorry, I'll be fine. I'll need to think about it more. I think that I will go visit Sophia again soon, so we can speak at that time."

"...Sfir family and Sophia, huh... Well, it's not bad if you think about it."

Claire muttered quietly to herself. Looking at Claire, I had a bad feeling. It's the same feeling that I had when Claire first thought of getting me a slave as a present.

"Claire.....What are you planning now?"

"Rude, I'm not plotting anything."

A straight up lie....Well, it should be okay? I was surprised when she brought Alice to me, but that ended up being a good thing. It will be okay this time too... probably.

## Chapter 3–4: My Sister-in-Law is My Romantic Interest?

A couple of weeks later, I was visiting the Sfir home again – “Welcome, Leon-sama, and also Claire Ridill-sama, Sophia-sama will be here shortly, so please relax and take a seat.”

Regis greeted us at the door – At his words we were led inside, somehow Claire is here with me. It seems that it has something to do with what she was planning last time.

“You did well in finding a way to let me accompany you.”

“I have no relationship with Sophia-chan, so I asked Mother to allow me to meet with her to strengthen the bond between our families, she agreed almost immediately.”

Agreed immediately, wow. That Caroline allowed Claire to go out with me? Maybe, is she suspicious of me doing something behind her back with the Sfir family?

Well, there is no point in worrying about that now.

“By the way, I didn’t realize the Grances family was so close with the Sfir family.”

“The Grances and Sfir family have a long lasting relationship. You didn’t know?”

“Ah...I didn’t know. Can you tell me about it?”

When I was trying to learn more about the relationship, Claire seemed to become annoyed and rolled her eyes.

“Otouto-kun knows a lot of different things, but you know, it’s kind of surprising that you don’t know about something that is common knowledge.”

“Wha-”

She doesn’t need to be so harsh. My only source of information has been Milli

and Alice, so I only know a little about the world.

“What’s wrong....Oh, right. Otouto-kun, you’ve never had a proper teacher before....sorry.”

“No, I don’t mind Claire...I’ve gotten a lot of help, so if you are worried, there’s no need, I’m fine.”

“.....Thank you.”

“Sophia will be coming soon. If you have such a sad face, she will think something is wrong.”

I can hear footsteps approaching along the corridor and cheer Claire up. Soon, Sophia was visible along with Regis.

As Sophia entered the room she began looking around the room until she found me. Her face immediately brightened and a huge smile showed on her face. She ran up to me with her medium length, golden hair streaming behind her.

“Leon onii-chan, you came back!”

“Of course. I made a promise with Sophia after all.”

“He~he~, I’m happy.”

Sophia bounced around happily in front of me. Seeing such a pure smile, it makes me happy.

“- Ojou-sama, have you properly greeted all of your guests?”

“Eh.....Claire Ridill-sama!?”

Regis quickly corrected Sophia on her manners. Sophia hurriedly turned to Claire, “It’s been a long time, Claire Ridill-sama. Welcome to our home.”

Sophia grabs the hem of her skirt and elegantly curtsied. Sophia is still seven years old though, she was distracted by me, so her response was delayed. She still did very well in her formal greeting.

Although I say that,

“.....I can not accept it.”

Claire scoffed and shook her platinum blond hair in dissatisfaction.

“U-um, I’m sorry. I heard that today Leon onii-chan was coming, so I was very excited, I apologize if what we were doing made you feel uncomfortable.”

“No, that’s not the problem. Leon is my otouto-kun and you call Leon, onii-chan. Well, then shouldn’t you call me Claire onee-chan!?”

.....huh. I thought that it may be something like that. But Sophia definitely wasn’t expecting that. She is stunned silent and blinking rapidly.

I feel kind of nostalgic. Claire also told me the same thing when we first met, I had a similar reaction to Sophia today.

“Ah ~ Sophia-chan? If you do not want to call me onee-chan, you can just call me Claire-nee instead.”

Maybe — add a little heart at the end.

“Claire onee-chan.....? Is that okay?”

“I would be happy if Sophia-chan would call me that. Of course, if you don’t want to call me that you don’t have to.”

Claire looked into Sophia’s red eyes, she seems to be acting rather polite to Sophia.....Maybe Claire understands the benefits of having a good relationship with Sophia and the Sfir family?

No, I guess she understands that much. Claire is matching Sophia’s gaze and holding a calm smile the entire time.

.....huh? That’s strange. Claire looks dignified. Where’s the Claire that I know?

“Leon onii-chan is thinking that seeing Claire onee-chan act like a lady is strange?”

“Wha-, Sophia!?”

I panic and try to think of an excuse after Sophia’s sudden accusation.- — But, it was too late and Claire slowly turned to me with a pleasant smile.

“.....Otouto-kun?”

“It’s a misunderstanding, it was my first time seeing Claire act like a proper lady, I was just thinking it was refreshing to see!”

“Is that true?”

“It’s definitely the truth. But, didn’t you hear Sophia? She called you onee-chan.”

“Oh right, about that...”

Claire returns her gaze to Sophia. Haaa~I’m saved.

“Sophia-chan, will you call me onee-chan?”

Claire asks for confirmation. The way Claire is acting caused Sophia to appear a little embarrassed.

“Claire onee-chan. Um.....like that?”

“~~~~~How is this child so cute!? Otouto-kun, can I have her?”

“.....Stop being ridiculous. Can you calm down a little?”

I grab Claire by the back of her neck and sit her down next to me. If I let her keep going we’d never get to the main reason for our visit. Then, I again turned my eyes to Sophia.

“I have something we need to talk about. Sorry, could you spare some time to hear me out?”

“Talk about?”

“To tell you the truth ——”

I give her a quick overview of my plan. Because I am the child of a mistress, my Father’s legal wife is hostile towards me. And so, to gain freedom, I told her that I am trying to start my own business.

And I’d like to talk to Carlos, who is the head of the Sfir family, about this — I ended up saying it pretty bluntly in the end.

“Leon onii-chan are you against marrying Sophia?”

That reaction is unexpected, and I’m hesitant to respond.

“N-no, that is.....”

“You don’t want to?”

“No, it’s not that. We are still children, so it’s a little early to be thinking about

marriage. Well.....”

I give up. I was against us meeting when Father first told me we were to be engaged. This marriage that our parents proposed, at first we were both against it, but now Sophia seems to truly want it.

Claire was leaving everything up to me and had been patiently watching our conversation. I wonder if it will be okay...I’m afraid the situation may get worse if it’s left to just me.

I tried to convey this to Claire with my eyes, she gave a small nod and turned to Sophia.

“Hey Sophia-chan, what do you think of otouto-kun?”

“Leon onii-chan? Um let’s see, Leon onii-chan has a very good heart. So when we’re together I feel at ease.”

.....Ah, that’s right. Because Sophia has the ability to truly understand people’s feelings, she would hate being around people that have hidden intentions or that keep their true feelings inside. In other words, the feelings Sophia has for me are not romantic, rather they are just feelings of affection.

I guess that was clear to Claire. She smiled at me telling me I didn’t need to worry.

“Hey, Sophia-chan, my brother does not dislike you and I just want you to be my sister-in-law.”

“.....Is that so?”

When Sophia looks at me uneasily, she grasped my hands timidly.

“....Leon onii-chan, you don’t hate Sophia?”

“Of course not. It’s fun to talk with Sophia.”

I have no need to pretend, these are my honest feelings.

However, Sophia is just too young and I can’t see her as a love interest. I want to protect Sophia, the same way I used to care for Saya when we were young.

“....I see.”

Did she read my feelings? Sophia shakes her golden hair and turns back to

Claire.

“Hey Claire onee-chan. If I become Leon onii-chan’s imouto, can we stay together forever?”

“Of course, if that’s what Sophia-chan wants, you can always stay with me.”

“Oh, okay, then Sophia will be your little sister! Ah, but then.....”

At the moment that Sophia started to smile happily, her expression became sullen.

I didn’t know why her mood suddenly changed, but I guess Claire understood why. I narrowed my eyes to see if I was missing anything.

“If you want to be together with otouto-kun in the future, you don’t need to worry. Rather you could even consider it to be rather advantageous, because he has a tendency to only love his sisters!”

–Wha-! I was barely able to suppress my shocked scream.

What are you saying, you stupid sister! Don’t label me as some perverted siscon!

In the first place, if you say something so unclear –

“Well, Leon onii-chan and Claire onee-chan seem to be on really good terms. If that’s the case, then Sophia will be the best imouto!”

–She accepted it!?

No no no. I certainly do not deny that Claire and I are on good terms, but that is still no reason to say something like that! Is it? Especially to say it’s an advantage to be my sister! Right?

After all, Sophia should be able to understand my true feelings.....Unless deep down I actually do feel that way.....no no no.....that’s impossible....ha ha ha ha.....

No, I need to escape from this reality!

“Claire, give me a break. Don’t you think Sophia will have a huge misunderstanding!?”

“Hmm, so that isn’t how you actually feel otouto-kun?”



“What to say -“

“So, what I said was true, right?”

“.....”

I’ve been defeated by Claire and I fall silent hoping to end this conversation. Though, looking at her green eyes, it seems like she wants to bring it up again.

I certainly do not want to go through that again, but as it is, my human decency is being doubted. But I am confident that I can persuade Sophia without any help from Claire....

Settle down. I need to calm down and think.

If I give up this argument to Claire, I’ll essentially be admitting to Sophia that I am someone that is only interested in sisters.....Just thinking about it has me feeling embarrassed.

However, if I can come up with a good enough excuse here, I can start trying to convince Sophia again. Still, I haven’t come up with a proper way to persuade her yet, so I might end up making Sophia feel sad again.....huh?

.....Would it not be fine to just accept it as is?

“- See he finally realized that he is only interested in his sisters. So all this time Leon wasn’t even aware of the fact that he had been slowly building up love points with Claire.”(TN: This is Claire talking. The way it’s worded in the raw is really strange.) “Wait, Claire!? Stop saying such strange things. I didn’t give up because I accepted what you said, I just gave up the argument because I realized there was no way I could win!”

I try to counter her in a loud voice, but I realize I’ve lost as soon as I said that I gave up. Claire realizes this and let’s out a smile. It’s so frustrating.

I’ve started a new series: The Reckless Trap Magician Let me know what you think of it so far. If there’s enough interest I’ll continue it.

## Chapter 3–5: Business with Carlos

With Sophia and Regis' guidance, it was decided that we would set up a place to discuss business with the head of the Sfir family, Carlos-san.

We were in the office of the Sfir family. I was facing Carlos-san across the desk. At his side, stood Regis.

"I understand your story. To be honest, I am surprised that you are under such circumstances. Would you mind if we go back through what you've told me?"

"Yes. Of course."

"First of all... I knew you were the child of a mistress, but is it true that you are isolated outside of the main house?"

"Yes, that's true."

"And you are shunned by your own family?"

".....Yes."

The moment I nodded, I could see Carlos' blue eyes fill with dismay.

Well that makes sense. I'm someone that's trying to marry his daughter. The reason for the marriage would be to strengthen ties with the Grances family. So if the person marrying his daughter is someone treated so poorly, the meaning to the marriage would be very thin.

.....Would it have been better for me to hide the truth?.....No, if I lie here then it wouldn't be fair. Besides, it's too late now.

I thought that at this point any assistance would be refused, but Carlos only muttered, "I see," after a long silence.

"The next question: I can understand the idea of wanting to use the rights to your trade as a way to negotiate. It would be more than enough to convince the Grances family, as well as the Sfir family."

Carlos-san cuts his words there, "However -," he then looked towards me as

to not miss any of my reaction.

“Is there really a way to create this trade.”

A piercing stare. The pressure I feel from his gaze is fitting of the head of a noble family.

I matched Carlos' gaze.

“Can you mass produce sugar in this region?”

“I'm sorry, sugar can only be made in low temperature areas.”

Disappointment appears on Carlos' face. That's why, in order to show him that his disappointment was premature, I gently lifted the edges of my mouth to show a meaningful smile.

“Well, as sugar beets only grow in cold regions, cultivation in the warmer regions of the Grances and Sfir territories would be impossible.”

“What are you trying to say? Are you planning to produce them somewhere else and transport them here?”

“No. I know of a different crop that can produce sugar and grow in warmer areas.”

“...What? Is there really such a thing?”

“Yes, without a doubt.”

“That means that you could mass produce sugar exclusively. If that is the case, that would be more than enough to be used as a bargaining chip. If you can do that your freedom would be assured. But...If this information is genuine, why don't you trade with the Grances family directly?”

“That's because if I were to do something that would get me renown, Caroline would never allow it.”

“Hmm. Certainly, that logic makes sense...”

If Carlos truly believes me so far, that would be amazing, but I can't fully trust him yet. Well it's not like I'm lying, so for now I'll talk openly with him.

“As sugar becomes cheaper, you will be able to sell a wide range of sweets including pudding.”

“Pudding.....Oh, that sweet thing with a strange texture. That was certainly delicious, but I’m sure something like that wouldn’t be able to be stored for very long.”

“Eh? Well, yeah that is true.”

Even if it were stored in a refrigerator, several days would be the max it would store. In this world it would be normal to store it at room temperature, therefore, a day would be the limit...but why does Carlos know such a thing?

“Actually, I was considering selling it, there was some interest, but I gave up because it could only store for a day.”

“I see.”

He was trying to sell it? No, I guess there’s no problem with that. It’s not like I invented pudding and there are no trademarks or patents in this world....Well, I guess it’s fine.

“Pudding does not do well in the heat, but I know recipes for other sweets that would be safe to store for a few days. So I think that it will not be a problem to sell these sweets, and even if the sweets are not able to be stored for long, if we open a store in a large city, we can sell them there.”

“If all of that is true, it’s honestly frightening how much this could be worth.”

Carlos went silent, seemingly deep in thought. I turned my eyes to Regis who had been standing off to the side, listening to my story since the beginning.

“What do you think after listening to my story?”

“I can’t answer because I do not have any knowledge of business, but..... Sophia ojou-sama is fully trusting of Leon-sama.”

“....Sophia, huh?”

Oh, this is good. Sophia is able to read people’s true intentions, so this will prove more than anything that I’m not lying.

Carlos seemed to think the same way and he appeared to soften his attitude.

“Leon-kun. I’d like you to confirm, but you’re saying it’s okay for me to have full control of this business?”

“Of course. Because I will be relying on the Sfir family, for things such as manpower and funds, I have no complaints as long as I can secure my freedom.”

“Well, one more confirmation then, you said that you want freedom, does that mean you don’t want to marry Sophia?”

Ugh. That’s right. Even if I’ve talked with Sophia, it’s meaningless unless I also talk to Carlos. I haven’t thought of any excuse, this is so awkward!

“Well, that is....Umm.....”

“Do you dislike Sophia?”

“Sophia is a really good girl! It’s fun to be with her, but we’re both still just children, it’s impossible to consider something like marriage...”

“If so, would you have any complaint to becoming my adopted son?”

“Well, uhh ...I don’t mind...but...”

“Okay, I understand. I’ll look to advancing talks to make that happen.”

Eh, just like that?.....Really?

“Now then, there’s still some minor arrangements -“

Without any more concern for me, the rest of the conversation went off without a hitch.

Then, the discussion with Carlos-san ended quickly. With this I was pleased that I was able to find a way to gain freedom and I returned to the Grances house — feeling at ease.

“- Leon, you are to be detained immediately.”

These were Caroline’s ruthless words that greeted me at home.

## Chapter 3–6: Mistakes are Repeated

“You must remain silent in this room.”

I was carried away by a knight and I was roughly thrown into a room that had nothing but a bed.

“Hey! What are you planning to do with me?”

“Shut up! You will wait quietly in this room!”

“At the very least you could tell me why.”

I try to persist and get answers, but the knight ignores me. The door is violently slammed shut. Still I’m not about to give up and I jump to my feet to try to open the door, but it’s locked from the outside.

“Hey! Wait! Tell me why I’m being kept here!”

I keep yelling for a while, but there is no response. I gave up and sat down on the bed in the corner of the room.

..... Seriously, what is going on? Did Caroline hear about my talks with the Sfir family? No, it would have been impossible for her to already know about that.

Then, is it about becoming the heir? I thought that matter had been settled.

Then what.....

“Haa~, this is a nice sight.”

A mocking voice suddenly could be heard. Looking around, there seemed to be something like a hatch in the door, and Blake was looking in from the outside.

“.....Do you have any business with me?”

“Mind how you speak to me, you can no longer defy me.”

“Defy?”

“Oh, yes. I know what you were planning.”

“...And that is?”

“Ha— Play ignorant all you want. You were trying to take my position as heir. I know you secretly talked with Father the other day and just today, you brought Claire with you to the Sfir home.”

.....Oh, I think I understand. Did Caroline tell him I was lying about giving up on becoming heir to hide my true intentions?

I’m not that ambitious of a person, in the first place I wouldn’t be able to come up with such a complex strategy.

Anyway, this Blake. It’s nice of him to tell me everything I want to know just by asking a couple of questions...No, maybe nice isn’t the right word.

Even if I’m being sarcastic, I can’t call Blake nice after the way he treated Alice.

“I don’t know exactly what you were planning, but give up already, you’ll be stuck in there for the rest of your life.”

“Rest of my life...Then, what’s going to happen with the marriage to the Sfir house?”

“I doubt they’d want anything to do with you now that you no longer have any political standing. Mother has commanded that you be imprisoned for life.”

— Imprisoned for life...Is he serious? That’s something I’ve gotten used to... I’ve been imprisoned, so to speak, ever since I was born.

This is bad. I didn’t expect to spend my entire life in a room like this. I must fix this misunderstanding by speaking with Caroline.

“Hey, can I talk with Caroline?”

“Why? What would you have to say to Mother? Even if you apologize profusely, it’s already too late.”

“No, this is all a misunderstanding. You’ll understand if you let me talk with Caroline.”

“Shut up! This is nice, you’ll have the rest of your life to sit in there and regret trying to defy me.”

“No, no, why won’t you listen to what I have to say!?”

I desperately ran up to the door, but Blake quickly slammed the hatch shut.

.....This is ridiculous. I have promises with Father and Claire, and also the Sfir home, so I think it's unlikely I'll be kept here, but....there is the matter of Alice.

I thought I would be able to leave quickly after clearing up the misunderstanding — but my expectations proved false and now several days have passed.

But, one day after several had passed.

Something changed. On a daily basis a silent maid would bring me meals. Then one day, it wasn't a normal maid that delivered the meals, but it was Michelle.

"Michelle!"

"Shh. Please be quiet, I will be bringing you meals from now on, so I ask that you keep your voice down."

".....I understand."

I don't know if Michelle has a plan, but I believe in her and nod. Soon the door opened and a maid with black hair slid into the room with a tray. She confirmed there was nobody around and closed the door.

Hmm, she appeared to be an unknown maid. Ah, now I understand....

"Are you...Claire?"

"Hehe, as expected, otouto-kun. You caught on quickly."

"Umm....is that a wig?"

"Yep. I'd be exposed immediately if I didn't wear a wig."

Claire removes the wig and her platinum blonde hair flowed out.

"So? Aren't I cute as a maid?"

"Are you calling yourself cute...well, you are cute."

In this world blonde hair is like a mark of nobility, so it is a little strange seeing a maid with platinum blonde hair. So seeing this made me think of a maid working in a maid cafe.



“Cute, but....what is it?”

“If it’s Claire, you can become a charismaid.” (TN: This works better in Japanese, but Leon is just combining charisma and maid into one word.) “Charismaid? Is that supposed to be a compliment?”

“Yes, so calm down. Can you please explain what’s going on? You came to help me escape.....right?”

“Unfortunately, there are guards posted outside, so it’s impossible for you to escape.”

“Well, can you explain what’s going on at least?”

“Of course, we don’t have much time so I’ll make it quick. Otouto-kun, you know that it was Mother that has imprisoned you, right?”

“Yeah, Blake came and told me.”

“Well, earlier, I tried to convince Mother that you weren’t interested in becoming heir, but she wouldn’t listen. For the time being Father is trying to talk some sense into her, but I don’t think she will listen to him either.”

“I see...Well then, are you and Alice okay?”

“Alice is living as usual in the guest house, it seems that Father is protecting her.”

“Is that so. Well that’s a relief....”

Knowing that Alice is safe, I feel relief wash over me.

However—

“But, I.....hey otouto-kun, my marriage has finally been decided.”

“.....Eh?”

“My partner is the marquis of the Gramp family, I mentioned earlier, he’s 18 years older than I am.”

“Well, we still have some time before the marriage, right?”

“Once I am twelve years old...Another six months...”

“If it’s only six months, would we really have enough time!? If my plan goes

well, I'm sure Carlos will manage to do something!"

"It's impossible. You know that otouto-kun. You're not sure if you'd be able to do it in six months, right? What hope do we have if you're confined?"

"But, then....There must be some other way!"

I couldn't believe it. However, if I accepted this outcome Claire would disappear from my life.

".....Hey, otouto-kun, I came to say good-bye. I am supposed to start bride training tomorrow, so I won't be able to freely visit you like I have been."

Claire shows a small smile. It seemed like she was forcing herself to accept all the sad things that had happened, it was a smile that caused pain to fill my chest.

I.....I know that smile all too well. In my previous life, Saya would always show me that smile, for such a long time.

".....Claire. Is there really no other way?"

"Don't worry, otouto-kun, you'll be fine, Carlos will do something and I'll ask the marquis to help you as well."

"That's not it, I'm worried about you!"

When Saya needed help, I could only watch over her.

An incurable disease, that the modern medicine on Earth could do nothing against. There was nothing I could do but pray to God....as I watched Saya accept death.

But, this time it's different.

Even without clinging to God, I can stand up and help rescue Claire. I can't let this happen to Claire who has given up on everything.

"There must be something we can do."

".....There is one thing.....Only otouto-kun...yes. Something only you can do, otouto-kun."

"Please tell me, if there's anything I can do I will."

“Then, take my first time.”

I gasped after hearing Claire’s words.

“.....at a time like this, don’t joke like that.”

“At a time like this, it would be impossible for me to be joking.”

“.....You’re being serious?”

We are brother and sister. Or is that just a trivial problem to Claire? No, before that, Claire, why is she saying something like that...?

“Otouto-kun, I’ve liked you since the first time we met.”

Claire had decisive words to answer my doubts. Listening to her words, I feel shaken.

“.....Claire, you like me?”

“Yes. As a girl, I am attracted to you.”

Is she serious? Does she mean to say that all the nice words that I took as jokes so far have been her true feelings? Seriously Claire, does she actually want me to take her first time?

If that’s the case, what should I do?

For me who has memories of my previous life, I am Yuya, and Leon is just the name of a newly obtained body. So, Claire, who had existed in another life, only vaguely feels like a sister to me.

So, if I said I’ve never viewed her as a woman, I’d be lying.

However, viewing Claire as a woman and thinking of her as a love interest is completely different. At the very least, I can’t see Claire in that way.

So, I can’t accept Claire’s feelings.

Even if that’s the way I feel, I’m currently at an impasse. That is to say, that after today Claire and I may never meet again. If I hurt Claire here, I may have the same regrets as when I lost Saya.

That’s when, as I was lost in thought, Claire placed her hands on my cheeks.

“- I love you, otouto-kun.”

Claire's lips brush against my cheek and she whispered something into my ear. Then, Claire quickly stood up.

"...Claire?"

"I'm sorry, I have to go now. I don't have much time."

"Eh, but —"

If she wanted me to take her first time, I thought she would've wanted more time — Ah, I understand everything after seeing Claire's lonely expression.

Claire had said that there wasn't much time from the beginning. Claire only wanted me to accept her feelings and had never planned on going any further.

I repeated the same mistake I made with Saya —

"Claire!!"

"Bye-bye, otouto-kun."

My outstretched hand did not reach Claire. She ran out of the room, ignoring my hand.

# Chapter 3–7: The Feelings I Only Noticed After Losing You

How many days have passed? A few weeks, maybe a month? Six months have yet to pass, but I spend everyday just eating the meals that are brought to me.

The nights were getting colder. When, one night I was awoken by an angry voice coming from somewhere nearby.

“...What? Is someone fighting?”

I strain my ears to try to hear more clearly. And what I could hear was a man, then a faint scream followed by the word ‘bandit.’

“A bandit.....in the mansion? That’s ridiculous.”

Not all of the knights of the Grances family are in the mansion. Rather, many of them are deployed to various places in the Grances’ territory.

Still, the number of guards in the mansion is much more than that of a house a merchant would live in. It is impossible for a bandit to enter such a place.

Despite this, the noise coming from outside continued.

“Hey, someone! Isn’t there anyone!?”

I shout while pounding on the door. I can’t tell what’s going on outside, but there is a possibility that there is actually a bandit out there. I may not be able to help as I am, but I can’t just sit here and do nothing.

Above all else, I am worried about Alice and Claire. Though, Claire may be protected by surrounding people, but Alice doesn’t have anyone.

“Someone! If someone’s there please answer me!”

I desperately pound on the door for a few more minutes.

“- Leon-sama, where are you Leon-sama?”

A voice I had been anxiously awaiting to hear.

“Alice, over here!”

“Leon-sama!”

Footsteps approach the door. And shortly, I hear a small *click* and the door swings open from the outside.

“Leon-sama, are you safe?”

“Yes, I’m fine. I heard a bandit, but what on earth happened?”

“There’s a lot of confusion and I don’t know the exact details, but there appears to be bandits attacking the mansion.”

“Attacking.....That’s insanity, to try to attack the mansion of an Earl, right?”

“Yes, but recently there have been many sightings of bandits in the territory. So, the bandits seemed to have attacked the mansion after many knights were dispatched out to the surrounding lands.”

“You’re saying this was their plan?”

“I don’t know.....it is true that the knights are being pushed back. I think that it’s only a matter of time until a bandit breaks into here.”

“Is it really that bad....”

It’s hard for me to believe, but it is a fact that I can hear a lot of confusion coming from outside. If I don’t act now, I may end up in a terrible situation stuck in here.

“Leon-sama, let’s first find a safe place to hide.”

“Well... Ah, wait, I need to find Claire, do you know where she is?”

“Claire-sama? Sorry, I haven’t seen her for a while now.”

“I see....”

When I last saw her, she said she would be going through bride training....If Alice didn’t see her, she might be trapped in her room.

“Okay, let’s go to Claire’s room first.”

We decided what to do first in the hallway. I borrowed one of the lanterns placed on the wall and headed to Claire’s room, relying on the dim light from the lantern.

But on the way, I found the body of a Grances knight and a bandit-like man.

“There was clearly a fight here.”

I do my best to hold back the nausea I feel as I observe the two bodies. It looks like it was a double knockout. There are fatal cuts on both bodies.

I’m not sure how skilled the Grances knights are.....but for a bandit to equal a knight. Are the bandits of this world really at that level?

...Well, I can ask questions later. First we need to find Claire and go to some place safe.

But before that – I look at the bodies.

There is some moral resistance to doing this, but in this situation I have no choice. I begin to search through each of their belongings to see if anything could be used.

“.....Leon-sama....that is...”

“I know what you want to say, but be patient for now. We need to do everything we can to survive here.”

“You’re right.....I’m sorry.”

“Good. Keep watch for anyone coming.”

I resumed searching the dead bodies. I collect the swords that each had and the oil pots that the bandit had. I give Alice a sword and hand her two oil pots.

“..... I....I’m not good with swords.”

“I know. I’m not good either, but it’s better than my bare hand. If we get into trouble, use it to create a chance to escape.”

“I understand.”

Alice gives a small nod in acknowledgement.

It’s gotten late, but Alice is showing how brave she is, she seemed to have been traveling around the country until she became a slave. Maybe she’s used to getting into dangerous situations like this.

Anyway, I was thankful for her being so calm – at that time, I heard a scream

of a woman coming from further down the hallway.

The moment I heard it, my body moved on it's own and I ran towards the voice.

As I turned the corner, what I witnessed was the figure of Caroline trembling behind Father who was fighting hard, but had already lost a hand.

"Father, behind you!"

Seeing enemies approaching from behind Father – I cry out – but Father who was busy with the enemy in front of him was unable to defend against them. And so — a large red flower bloomed in the hallway.

But Father was not cut down and was standing there with a stunned expression. Then, before Father, the figure of Caroline slowly collapsed while staring at him.

"YOU!!!"

Father returned to his senses and was filled with anger. The bandit that attacked Caroline had his head cut clean off. However, the enemies that Father had previously been fighting – "Bring it on!"

I threw the sword I was holding.

That is to say, I threw it haphazardly at the bandits, and it wasn't likely to hurt them, but Father had time to recover and was able to cut them down.

"—Carol! Please, Carol!"

Father kneels at the side of Caroline and raised her bloodied body with one arm.

"Dear....are you alright?"

"Yes, I'm fine! But why, why did you protect me! You must have hated me! So why did you protect me!?"

"Yes, I resented you.....because you never noticed the way that I felt...about...you..."

"...Wh-what...what are you talking about!? You felt that way!?"

Caroline, with the light in her brown eyes fading, smiled weakly. Father, who



could not believe it, was only able to show an expression of shock.

“Always....of course.....I’ve.....for a long time, Dear....ever since we were kids... I’ve loved you.”

“Carol!? Stay with me! Don’t die, don’t die! Please wait, Carol, please! Please wait! Please wait!”

As Father desperately called out to her, Carol’s body went limp.

“Carol! Don’t die! Don’t leave me! Carol!? Carol, say something, say anything.....Please answer me...Carol, Carol.....”

Caroline died. She wasn’t sick. It wasn’t an accident.

For the first time I witnessed someone take another person’s life. Before that shocking sight, I was left speechless.

Still, it is unsafe to stay here, I managed to squeeze out a hoarse voice.

“Father.....it’s dangerous to stay here.”

“.....Leon? Why are you here?”

“I came to find Claire.”

“I...see. Don’t worry about her, she’s at the monastery.”

“Monastery....?”

“She was sent there by Carol for bride training.”

“I see....”

There are things I’d like to say, but I don’t want to speak ill of the dead. Besides, because of this, Claire is now in a safe place.

I force myself to calm down and forgot about what I’ve just witnessed.

“Then, we are the only ones left?”

“.....Yes, Blake was escorted out by the knights and the employees were ordered to escape as well. Only some that were able to fight remain inside the mansion.”

“Okay...then, let’s escape together...we need to find some place safe to bandage your arm.”

Blood continues to flow from his arm. It will be too late if I don't stop the bleeding soon.

I can hear bandits near the bedroom, which can be considered the innermost part of the mansion. There is fighting echoing out from there, and it's only a matter of time before the enemies make it here.

There's no time for us to waste.

Although saying that, Father slowly shook his head.

"Sorry, but I can't leave Carol."

"...Then Father, you must carry her body."

Although one of his arms is near useless, I propose that it would be better if we carry her out, but Father again shakes his head.

"That's not it. I won't let Carol face this journey alone."

"You mean—"

—He intends to die with her?

".....Father. I know how you feel, but if we run away we will be able to survive."

"Leon, I'm sorry, but I will not run."

"Father! She sacrificed her life to save you!"

"- I know – but I didn't notice Carol's feelings and she has been lonely for such a long time. So, in the end I would like to do at least this much for her!"

"\_\_"

It would be a lie if I said that I couldn't understand Father's feelings.

Because.....I felt the same way when I lost Saya. I knew I'd die shortly after Saya, that way I could be with her and she wouldn't be alone.

But Father is different. The bleeding is terrible, but if we hurry he could survive.

"Father, please reconsider."

"I've made up my mind."

“What will happen to the Grances house!?”

“When he isn’t fighting with people, Blake is a good successor. Even if you choose to not marry into the Sfir family, our families have had a close relationship for a long time, so they will undoubtedly lend a hand to you and Blake.”

I bit my lip after hearing Father’s words. I was honestly not worried about the Grances family. I just said that, in the hopes that it would convince him to live.

“.....I’m sorry.”

My Father murmured this.

At his apology – I forced down the words I wanted to say. I have no time left to spare. The noise of the bandits was getting closer.

Is it impossible to change Father’s mind? I still have a lot of things I’d like to hear, leaving things like this.....

“Don’t make such a face, you have Milli, Claire, and Alistair, right? You seem to have made a lot of friends.”

For a moment I did not understand his meaning.

“Father, how do you know all of this?”

Father doesn’t respond to my question. Instead he just gave me a meaningful look. As I looked at him, I thought back to the events that happened during the influenza outbreak.

At that time my father, just like now....

“- Leon-sama, it’s about time.”

My thoughts were interrupted by Alice.

“....I know.”

There are many things I want to ask. There are countless things that I want to say. But, I can not afford to die yet.

So, I decided to leave my father.

“Father, I’ll escape. I’ll escape and survive.”

“Okay... that’s good. There is a hidden door in the hallway on the second floor, there is a stairway that leads to the basement. If you move quickly you should be able to escape to the outside from there.”

“...Thank you.”

I try to leave like that, but because this is the last goodbye to my Father I was reluctant to leave. I turned to say one final goodbye.

“.....is there something else you need to say?”

I didn’t want to say something like, “I love you,” like the final scene of a foreign movie. However, just once, because we are family....

However,

“Right....You must protect Milli and Claire.”

“...You’re keeping this up until the end...”

Various thoughts swell within my chest and I almost let some of these slip out. But, I desperately forced them down, and I engrave Father’s words on my heart.

“...I understand...I will always protect them both.”

“I see, if that’s true then I can die peacefully. Knowing I can be proud of my son.”

“\_\_”

I wonder what the feeling was I felt at that time. Joy? Or was it anger?

.....I don’t know. The only thing I know is that all of this was too late.

“Now, Leon, you must go, the enemy will be here soon.”

I don’t need Father’s words to tell me this. I can hear footsteps fast approaching us.

It’s only a matter of time before they get here. So I hold back all of the words of gratitude, of hate, everything I wanted to say.

And —

“.....Goodbye, Father.”

I say my final goodbye and grab Alice's hand, heading in the opposite direction of the footsteps.

“Carol.....I'm sorry, I never noticed your feelings, I never even noticed my own feelings, but I finally understand, these feelings I've only noticed after losing you....”

## Chapter 3–8: Mastermind

We hid in a room inside the mansion to evade the bandits. From outside of the room, we could hear footsteps running through the hallway.

When I hold my breath to avoid being heard, I'm attacked by waves of sorrow.

From Caroline to my father and even the people that lived in the mansion. I never had a close relationship with any of them, but I never wished that they were dead.

Nonetheless, Caroline died and Father followed her. I have not seen any bodies of the servants, but there are several bodies of knights lying everywhere.

Why did this happen...?

“–Leon-sama.”

I suddenly noticed Alice staring at my face.

“Leon, are you okay? You have a painful look on your face.”

“I can't say that I'm fine, but I can keep going. I can mourn later, once we've escaped from here.”

“Leon-sama, you're strong.”

“I'm not strong. I'm only desperate because of how weak I am.”

Because I'm so weak, I caused Saya sorrow. Because I was weak, I could not protect Milli, Claire, everyone. And even now I am still weak, so I am afraid of losing anything else.

“.....You're still strong as you are. You try to do everything by yourself, you remind me so much of my older brother.”

“Alice's older brother...What kind of person was he?”

“We can talk about that once we've escaped from here.”

“Right...I'm looking forward to it.”

I thought that may be a chance to raise a flag, but Alice didn't answer. I guess it is a hard subject for her to talk about.

"... Well, the bandits seem to have passed by."

"Really? Do you think there are anymore nearby?"

"Well, there doesn't seem to be any near us."

Alice gives a clear answer to my question.

Alice seems to have better senses than humans, and so she is able to accurately scout out the surrounding area. Thanks to this, she had helped me many times so far.

If Alice was not with me, I would have been caught a while ago.

"Okay, let's hurry and find the hidden door."

I gently opened the door to check the area outside of the room we had been hiding in, just as Alice had said, there was nobody in the vicinity.

We carefully, but as quickly as we could, headed to the hallway on the second floor where the hidden door was located.

Along the way, there were several times bandits came near us, but thanks to Alice we were able to avoid them. We reached the location of the hidden door.

"Is this....the hidden door?"

I push around on the wall to find the way to open it. It was surprisingly easy to open. With this, we can escape from the mansion.

At the moment I reached out to push on the wall, I could hear a man's scream coming from behind us in the hallway.

"Now...."

"That sounded like Blake-sama, it's coming from just around the corner....Maybe he was caught by a bandit."

"Blake, huh...."

Father had said he had already escaped, but he's still in the mansion.

".....What should we do? It sounds like they've captured him, so they don't

seem to plan on killing him immediately. They're probably going to interrogate him first....."

"Is that so..."

If they're planning on interrogating him, of course there will be other enemies with him.....

It would be dangerous for us to take a risk to save Blake. After all he did to Alice. Only a complete idiot or someone really good-natured would go back for someone like that.

— So I let out a sigh, knowing how stupid I was for doing this.

"Alice, I'm sorry, but you'll have to escape first. I'll go back to help Blake."

".....Wha—"

"Please don't say anything. I can't stand to see any more of my family die. Even after everything Blake has done. To me, he's still my older brother."

"I'm not trying to stop you, I am your slave Leon-sama. If I leave your side now, I'll be hit by an intense amount of pain from the slave contract's seal."

"—Ah"

The seal on Alice marking her as a slave. There seems to be no way to remove this, and it prevents her from taking any action against her master. Lately, I had completely forgot about the fact that Alice is a slave.

".....Had you forgotten?"

"Ah....No, I'm sorry."

"Well, don't worry about it. Anyway, I will follow Leon-sama. I was honestly a little angry when you asked me to leave you here."

"What, why? For someone like Blake..."

After Blake attacked her and wanted her to do terrible things. But, to me asking her why, Alice only showed a bitter smile.

"I hate him."

"Then, why?"



“If you were to abandon Blake here, you would regret it forever. If that were to happen, I could never be happy, and so, I am going to help.”

It only took me a moment to understand her meaning.

“If I’m filled with regret, you can’t become happy?”

“...Well, you did say we’d be happy together. Or were you lying?”

“No, I would never lie about that....”

As I stood there confused, Alice showed a smile that I had never seen before.

The moment I see it, I realize that my face has turned red. However, there’s no time for this now. First of all, I need to focus on helping Blake, I pushed down the feelings Alice had brought up in me.

I head towards the direction I heard Blake’s voice coming from. As we turned the corner I could see a someone that looked like a knight standing there, Blake was pressed up against the wall with a sword pointed at his chest.

Fortunately, there is only one opponent. If I act now, I may be able to take him down by surprise.

“We’ll try to take him by surprise. Alice get ready.”

I exchange words quickly with Alice as we hide around the corner from the knight. We begin to quietly approach the enemy from behind.

At that moment, Blake, who had spotted me, opened his eyes and pointed to me.

“He’s the one! Leon is the one you’re looking for!”

“Wha-!?”

That idiot! On top of stopping us from being able to take the knight by surprise, he’s trying to get the knight to attack me! After all, it was a stupid decision to come to help him.

“Leon-sama, I’ve finally found you.”

The attacker turns around slowly. The moment I heard that voice, I froze in surprise. His face was covered with a mask, but that voice was familiar to me.

“...Are you...Regis!?”

“I see...just by my voice you could tell.”

Regis said this and removed his mask. That face undoubtedly belongs to the butler of the Sfir family, Regis.

“Why are you here!”

“I’ve come to retrieve you.”

“Retrieve me? What do you mean!”

“I see...”

“Hey! You found who you were looking for, now let me go!”

Blake’s shouts cut Regis’ words short.

“Oh, sorry. I certainly no longer have any use for you. I’ll release you as you’ve requested.”

“O-oh, right. Now let me go.”

Blake escaped from the restraint of Regis and looked at me mockingly.

“I don’t know how you escaped from that room, but it doesn’t matter anymore! I’ll still have the last laugh! It’s a perfect end for you to die so miserably!”

Blake laughs arrogantly — Behind him, Regis showed only a cold smile.

“.....No wait! Stop!”

I understand what Regis is planning and scream out to him. But at the same time, in a flash Regis swung his sword clean through Blake’s neck. Blake’s head was sent flying.

He collapsed without a sound. That was Blake — my brother’s death.

“....Why, why did you kill him!?”

“He would cause trouble if he was left alive.”

“.....What do you mean?”

“We can’t talk of that in this place. Will you come with me quietly?”

“You aren’t going to kill me?”

“No, I will be in trouble if I don’t bring you with alive.”

“...And if I were to refuse?”

“Then, I would have no choice but to use force to bring you with.”

The moment Regis responds, he closes the distance between us in seconds.

– He’s fast. I was expecting a surprise attack and just barely managed to avoid his attack.

I barely managed to parry Regis’ sword, but the power behind his blow is immense.

“Hou-, that’s an amazing reaction speed! It’s too bad. You lack the strength to match swords with me!”

“–Gu”

I parry the first blow, but Regis continuously strikes at me. Just as Regis said, the difference in our strength is too great. In the end, the sword I was holding was sent flying across the room.

And then, the point of Regis’ sword was pressed against my throat.

“It’s over. Now please come with me peacefully.”

“...Why do you need me? Under whose orders are you here?”

“I can’t give you any specific details. All I can say is that it’s nothing bad.”

“...It’s nothing bad?”

I turn my eyes to look behind Regis. There, sat the remains of Blake.

And burned in my mind, are the bodies of the people of the Grances family, including Father and Caroline. I can’t trust Regis’ words.

I quickly focus my mind. I begin to collect the surrounding magical energy on my right arm and convert it into magical power. Immediately, the magical power on my right arm begins to release a pale glow.

“That’s...impossible! Someone your age is able to use magic!?”

Regis jumps back out of instinct. I began to retreat down the hallway away

from Regis — threatening him with my right arm.

I only learned how to create magical power by Alice. She never taught me how to cast any spells. For now, this is just a distraction to create a chance for us to escape.

“Alice!”

“—Yes!”

Alice who understood what I was planning threw one of the oil pots at the ceiling and smashed another on the ground. The pot broke with ease, one spreading oil along the hallway and the other covering Regis in oil.

“Agh— This is—!”

Regis immediately rolled out of the pool of oil. Almost at the same time, Alice threw the lantern toward Regis. The oil caught fire instantly and turned the hallway into a sea of fire.

A sea of fire may be an exaggeration — to be more accurate the fire is only about waist-high. But, Regis is covered in oil.

If he were to run towards us now, there is a chance he may be able to avoid the fire. However, the possibility of him catching fire is still there — this causes him to hesitate.

Then, there was a small opening where Regis lost sight of us. At this time, we quickly ran to the hidden door, there was a long stretch of stairs going to the basement from the second floor.

Like this, we succeeded in escaping the mansion.

# Chapter 4–1: Alice’s Hometown

It would be impossible for us to escape unnoticed as the members of the Sfir family continued to attack the mansion. Besides, by the way I’m dressed I look like a nobleman, so I’d be even more conspicuous.

That’s why, after we escaped from the mansion, we hid in a hut along the outskirts of some farmland.

After we had found some safety, I sent Alice, who was unknown to the Sfir family, to go pick up Claire— “It seems members of the Sfir family were sent to the monastery, it appears Claire-sama was taken.”

Claire had already been kidnapped.

“I have to go help Claire!”

“Please wait!”

Alice grabs hold of me before I can run out of the hut.

“Why are you stopping me!? Claire may be killed!”

“If that was what they wanted to do with her, even if you left now it would be too late.”

“I can’t know that unless I go after her now! What would I do if Claire was killed because I didn’t go to help her!?”

“— Leon-sama!”

A dry sound echoes throughout the hut. At the same time I feel a sharp pain on my cheek.

“What are yo—”

I couldn’t finish my sentence. As I looked at Alice, who had just slapped me, her face was contorted from an immense amount of pain.

“What’s wrong, Alice!?”

“...I’m fine.”

“There’s no way you’re fine!”

— I see, because she hit me, the seal of her slave contract must have activated.

It must be considerably painful. Alice is sweating from her brow, but she didn’t complain, and she looked into my eyes.

“.....Please calm down, Leon-sama. If they were planning on killing Claire-sama, there’s no way you’d be able to get to her in time to save her. However, that is only if they were planning on killing her.”

“.....You’re saying they don’t plan on killing Claire? Didn’t you see what they did to Blake?”

“Although, the people attacking the mansion dressed as bandits, the people that came to the monastery introduced themselves as members of the Sfir family. If they were planning on killing Claire-sama they wouldn’t have revealed who they were.”

I understand. If they were planning to kill Claire, there would be no need to be honest about who they are. Just like how they attacked the mansion, they disguised themselves as bandits, and hid the truth about who really attacked the Grances mansion.

However, they introduced themselves as members of the Sfir family.

“So you think the Sfir family has some business with Claire?”

“There’s a good chance of that, but I’m not sure that’s exactly right. I’m guessing they took Claire so they’d have something you want, Leon-sama.”

“.....Me?”

“Who is most likely to take over the title of Earl, now that the head and heir of the family are dead?”

“...Isn’t that Claire?”

She’s the eldest daughter, and older than me. Furthermore, she is Father’s legitimate child. So I thought that Claire would become the next successor, but Alice shook her head.

“In the aristocracy, a woman would never take over except in special cases, and this would not be considered a special case. Leon-sama would be the next in line.”

“So you’re saying, Claire was taken hostage to get to me?”

“...That seems like the most likely reason to me, though it could still be a completely different reason. There is also the possibility that they just liked Claire and did not want to harm her. But, whatever the reason —”

“The likelihood that Claire has been killed is low.”

“That’s what I think, so you should stay calm so we can find a way to rescue Claire.”

“Even if you say find a way to rescue her.....”

If we look around, we may find some surviving members of the Grances house, but....the people that attacked us were from the Sfir family. I couldn’t prove anything just by saying that I saw Regis.

However, it would be impossible for Alice and I to sneak into the mansion.....

“If you have no plan, can we go to my hometown?”

Alice made a proposal. Maybe she could tell I was unsure of what to do.

“Your hometown.....An elf village? I’m interested in seeing it, but.....now is not the time to be sightseeing.....or do you have another reason for wanting to go?”

“If we tell them about what has happened they may offer to help us. Even if that is impossible, I’d be able to remove the slave contract, that would allow me to use my spirit magic again.”

Alice’s spirit magic? I’ve only learned to create magical power, I don’t know how powerful spirit magic is.

“Would we be able to rescue Claire if you could use your spirit magic?”

“It’s hard to say if I could do it alone.....I do have an idea, that may make it possible for me, but the problem is even if we took a carriage, it would take us one to two weeks to reach my hometown.”

“So, you’re afraid Claire may be killed in that time?”

“That’s a definite possibility. Therefore, Leon-sama you must decide.”

Should we head to the Sfir home immediately, or go to Alice’s hometown? It’s true that we have no time to waste, but as I am now, I wouldn’t be able to do anything to help Claire.

It seems like the smart decision would be to go to the elf village.

“— I’d like to ask, is it safe for a human to enter an elf village?”

I don’t know if my knowledge from Earth would apply here, but from what I’ve been told, the elves of this world rarely involve themselves with humans. So, I’m worried of being sent away when trying to enter the elf village.

“It’ll be fine. If I say that I’ve invited you, they’ll definitely let you enter.”

“Really?”

She seems pretty confident.

I’m still unsure, but for now our next destination has been decided.

“Alice, please take me to your hometown.”

We were able to obtain the needed money for travel by selling off some of the clothes I wore.

That’s how we escaped the town safely. I made sure to weave my way throughout the town, while we headed to the elf village, in order to avoid any members of the Sfir family still searching for us — “...Hey, Alice.”

I stare at Alice with scornful eyes.

“Wh-what is it, Leon-sama?”

“When I asked you if elves would accept humans, you said they would, right?”

“Ye-yes, I said something like that.”

“Then, why are we being surrounded!?”

We arrived at Alice’s hometown. Where we — or should I say I was surrounded by dozens of elves pointing their bows right at me.

“They absolutely are not accepting of me.”

“We-well, I didn’t think they’d surround us before we had a chance to talk.



Please, everyone, this person isn't an enemy, so please lower your bows!"

Alice hugged me.....No, I guess she's trying to protect me, but due to the height difference my head is in a rather soft place.

"What are you talking about, Alice! Isn't this the man that took you!?"

"Leon-sama wasn't the person that kidnapped me!"

"Leon-sama? Why else would you give a human a title like that! You've clearly been enslaved!"

".....Eh? It's true that I am Leon-sama's slave."

"I knew it! So, you've been commanded to protect him!"

"You're wrong! I've chosen to be with him!"

"You don't need to lie for him! Don't worry we'll kill him and release you soon enough!"

"I'm telling you, you're wrong! Please, listen Father!"

.....Huh, father? I look at the elf that has been yelling for a while now. He looks very elegant and maybe in his early twenties, but.....he's Alice's father?

"I-I've just been so worried about you...."

"If that's true, then listen to what I have to say! If you hurt Leon-sama, even a little, I will never speak to you again!"

"Wha-! P-p-p-p-please anything but that! —- Wa-wait a minute! I'm sure you were commanded to say that by that child!"

"Haa~~.....You don't think I'm being serious? Then, go ahead. Try to hurt Leon-sama. I'm sure you'll be the one regretting it."

"What did you say? You're serious? You really care for that child? But....that can't be true. But, if you're serious, then you'll never speak to me again?"

.....What is even happening. Could you please stop negotiating with a person's life so casually?

Well, Alice is still hugging me in order to protect me, I guess she's doing this in case she's unable to convince them.

Though, if she keeps holding me like this, I won't be able to say anything to defend myself. I need to be able to explain myself properly.

"Umm....Alice's father?"

"You have no right to call me father."

"No....that's why I purposefully added Alice."

"You're noisy, stay quiet. I have no intention on speaking with a human like you! I will spare your life as Alice has asked, so leave this place immediately!"

Wow...this old man, can you not listen to people's stories properly? No, in this case, he won't listen to me because I'm a human. Anyway, this is bad.

"...Alice. Would you like to go home?"

"Yeah, return home, let Alice come home and you leave us already."

"No, I'll be leaving with Leon-sama. Anyway, old man, could you not speak to me so casually?"

"W-w-w-what are you saying!? I'm your father!"

"Huh? My father would never be so awful to someone that has helped me out so much."

"Ugh!?"

.....How long is this going to go on? I know there's nothing I can do to make this go faster, but I can't let this absurd act go on any longer.

"Umm, excuse me. Is there nobody that wants to listen to what I have to say?"

"Then, let me ask you —"

A clear voice echoes throughout the area. When I looked around for the source, I saw an elf woman standing nearby us.

"——Ha!?"

Alice prepares to run, but before she can the elf woman speaks.

"Alice, if that boy is important to you be quiet and stay there."

The elf woman is smiling, but there is incredible power behind that smile.

Alice hugged me tighter and fell silent.

“What is the chief of the village doing here? What do you plan on doing to Leon-sama?”

“Don’t worry. If that boy isn’t a bad person then you’ll have nothing to worry about.”

“.....I understand.”

After hearing the chief’s words, Alice put a little distance between us, but she still kept hold of the bottom of my shirt.

Anyway, I turn my gaze to the elf that I now know is the chief. She looks about the same age as Alice, but based on her position as chief I’m assuming she’s much older.

Then suddenly, she appeared right before my eyes....

“Were you hiding your appearance with magic?”

“Oh, well done.”

“Well, you used the argument with Alice’s father to approach unnoticed.”

If that’s true, then that argument was truly pointless. I guess it was necessary in order for the chief to approach stealthily.

“No, that was a real argument between father and daughter.”

“.....Really?”

I was sure that he was acting, but I guess it’s better he wasn’t trying to deceive me. Well, either way, I’m glad everything’s clear now.

“You got closer to us to get Alice back, right? Then, why not kill me before revealing yourself?”

“Because you said you had something to say.....Besides, at this distance, even if you were planning something, I could kill you in an instant.”

She’s smiling, but her eyes show her killing intent. If I do anything strange I’m sure she wouldn’t hesitate to kill me.

Well, if she’s being honest I have nothing to worry about. I have no intention

on opposing them.

“I have a question. Can you remove the slave contract inscribed on Alice?”

“Yes, that wouldn’t be a problem.”

After hearing that, I let out a sigh of relief. Even if I still have to fix the misunderstanding with the elves, and I still need to find a way to save Claire, it was major concern of mine to erase the slave contract inscribed on Alice.

“Well then, please erase the seal on Alice. Afterwards you’ll believe her words, right?”

“Are you trying to buy time in order to escape?”

“Then, restrain me if you’d like. Just promise you won’t harm me until you listen to what Alice has to say.”

“Hmm? It appears you’re being serious.”

“Yes, I am.....”

They’re still doubting me. Is this all just because I’m human?

“I can’t tell what you’re thinking, but you seem to believe in Alice. Though, the slave contract can cause the slave to falsely trust their master even after it’s gone.”

“.....Are you talking about brainwashing?”

“Not literally, but a slave is attacked by intense pain whenever they act against their master. So, a slave may come to like their master in fear of being hurt by the seal.”

“....Ah, I see.”

I remember a similar theory from my previous life. When a criminal takes a hostage, the hostage may develop Stockholm syndrome.

“So, you’re saying even if Alice tries to defend me, you’ll think that it’s only due to the effects of the seal?”

“I think that is a possibility. So, after we’ve removed the seal, we’ll give Alice a week to regain her senses. However —-”

“I don’t care. Please remove the seal on Alice.”

After I answered without hesitation, for the first time the elf woman’s facial expression changed. She let out a small look of surprise for a split second.

“I’m surprised. I thought that a child wouldn’t be able to understand.....But, it appears I was wrong. Though, are you confident in your actions?”

.....Confident in my actions?

Thinking back on what I’ve done to Alice.....I left a kiss mark on Alice’s neck, grabbed her chest and told someone that I trained her to my liking every night.

.....I’m not confident at all.

Once Alice is freed from the slave contract, it’s possible they may learn about that stuff. Right now, I’m more concerned about how sharp the chief’s intuition is.

However.....

“I’m not confident in my actions, but right now all I want is for Alice to be free from her slave contract.”

“Understood. Then, it will be decided what to do with you in one week. You will not be allowed to interact with Alice in anyway. Everyone, please make sure he doesn’t interfere.”

## Chapter 4–2: Pre-established Harmony

A week later. I was under house arrest in the elf village. The building I'm in doesn't have a draft, but it's still cold due to it being winter.

"I'm still confined even after I've managed to escape my imprisoned life. I guess I'm destined to live like this."

I let out a small sigh as I look at the scenery from my small window.

The elf village blends seamlessly in with the surrounding forest. The buildings are sturdy and made up of wood. It looks just like an elf village from a book.

Yet, I'm unable to even look around this village and I'm confined to this small hut.....It seems that I've spent over half of my life now in confinement.

No, I'm not even eleven years old, and I've only been free for one week when traveling to the elf village and another two days when I went to the Sfir home, so if I rounded it up I would've been confined for 100 percent of my life.....For some reason, I feel empty.

As I was thinking about this, Alice's father spoke.

"Boy — Leon do you remember what you said? The promise you made?"

"I remember. In one week — or rather today, Alice will decide my punishment."

"That's right. In other words, today is the day you die."

".....The day I die. Alice wouldn't allow something like that."

"Haa, you can stop acting tough."

Later I was brought to Alice's house. I sat in a cozy living room made of wood, where I was handed some homemade food by Alice.

"— How did it end up like thhhiiiiissss!?"

"Be quiet old man."

"Uuooooo!?"

The good-looking elf was treated coldly by Alice as he rolled around wildly on the floor. Somehow, I feel like the elegant image I had of elves has been destroyed.

“Dear? If you can’t stay quiet, would you rather we throw you out of the room?”

“Hah! I’m sorry!”

Alice’s mother — spoke with a shrewd tone, Alice’s father (whose name I still didn’t know) became quiet.

By the way, Alice’s mother (I also don’t know her name) is the chief of the village.

I can’t quite say that this is surprising, I now understand why Alice believed the elves in the village would cooperate if she asked them.

But Alice’s mother, who should never have believed in me, acted friendly towards me when I was being confined and came to hear what had happened between Alice and I so far.

“Leon-sama, do you not like it?”

“Ah, no. Alice’s food is delicious. If I had known you were such a good cook, I would’ve asked you to make me something earlier.”

“Well, there was no chance for me to cook before, right? If you like it so much, I’ll be sure to cook for you more often.”

“Eh, that makes me happy to hear....But, Alice you’re no longer a slave. There’s no need for you to act so humble anymore.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes, actually I thought this way from the beginning, but I was forced to make you use honorifics because Mary would ask questions otherwise. But, this is a good opportunity, please treat me normally from now on.”

“Is that so...? Well then, is it okay, for me to talk normally?”

“Of course. Please do so.”

“Well, then....Leon. It’s nice to meet you...?”

“Nice to meet you, Alice.”

“.....Huh, it feels kind of shameful, right?”

Alice shyly holds both of her hands to her face, she’s really cute.

“Uuuuuuuoooooooooooo!! What’s with this sweet atmosphere! Father will not allow this!”

“Dear? Please go patrol the village for a while.”

“Don’t be foolish! My mission is to monitor this boy so he can’t steal Alice from me!”

“D-E-A-R?”

“.....Yes, I’ll go patrol the village.”

Alice’s mother is strong. As expected of the chief.....

“Leon-kun, I’m sorry for all of the noise.”

“I don’t mind....but can I ask something?”

“What is it?”

“Can I assume that the suspicion around me has been cleared?”

— After one week had passed, Alice and I were allowed to meet again. Her feelings towards me had not changed.

Though, if they were worried about something similar to Stockholm syndrome, I think it would be normal to have some doubt like Alice’s father.....No, I think there are other reasons for him disliking me.

“To be honest, I haven’t doubted you since the beginning.”

“.....Really?”

“Yes, do you know why?”

Thinking back on what happened, I was pretty surprised to hear that. Well, then why did she feel the need to cause me so much trouble if she didn’t suspect me?

On the other hand, if things had happened differently there would still be a reason to doubt Alice’s words — I think back to the events of a week ago.



“To convince people like Alice’s father, right?”

“Correct. There was no way to be sure that Alice wasn’t being told what to say. This way, there is no longer any reason to doubt her words.”

“.....Does that mean you’ll allow Alice to travel with me?”

“There is that, but also it means you and Alice can now be married.”

“— Bu!?”

“M-m-m-m-mother!?”

Alice jumps up from her seat and rushes over to her mother.

“Hmm, why are you so upset? You’re going out, right?”

“W-w-w-what are you saying!? Leon is only ten years old!”

“Why would an elf care about age difference? After a few more years, Leon-kun will be an adult, besides you already said you’d be happy together, didn’t you?”

.....Ah, Alice told her about that and she misunderstood that we were dating.

Because I was watching from the sidelines, I was able to calm down a little, but Alice continued to panic and her face turned bright red.

“That’s why I told you, it didn’t mean anything like that!”

“I heard you, but didn’t you want it to have that kind of meaning?”

“When did I say that!?”

“I must’ve misheard you then, but you’re saying you never felt that way? Before, you said, “Leon-sama is so kind, gentle, and reliable.” The way you spoke about him was the way someone talks about someone they’re in love with.”

“Wa—wa—wa!?”

U-umm. I think we need to stop this conversation to save Alice.

I’m troubled though. I don’t know how to go about stopping it, but...I feel warm listening and enjoy watching them. I changed my mind and decided to continue to listen to them talk.

“From now on, you will continue to follow Leon-kun, so you should become engaged, right?”

“— Mother.”

Alice panicked, and began touching her silver hair ornament.

“.....Are you....don't tell me?”

“Well, that's right.”

“Amazing. Then, why are you staying silent?”

“Well....that is....I'm keeping it a secret for now...that's why...”

“It's become difficult for you to talk about. I guess it can't be helped.”

Alice's mother shrugged her shoulders and turned to me.

“I'm guessing that you're able to tell after hearing that, but Alice has a small secret. She'll show it to you now.”

“—- Eh, wait a minute, Mother!?”

“Stay quiet.”

Alice's mother grabbed the escaping Alice and removed her hair ornament.

“This is Alice's secret.”

Alice's mother proudly says this. After she removed Alice's hair ornament — I then noticed Alice's change.

Alice's blue eyes that I felt like I could get lost in when looking at them, the right eye had turned gold. Heterochromatic eyes. Her left and right eye were different colors.

“.....High elf.”

When I said this, Alice's body trembled slightly.

“U-umm, I'm sorry for hiding it until now. It became impossible to tell you after I had been hiding it since we first met.”

“Eh....Ah, you don't need to worry about hiding it.”

It's true that I don't want her to feel guilty for hiding a secret. After all, I'm

hiding the fact that I have memories from my previous life.....

“You’re not angry?”

“Of course not, everyone has secrets, right? And I can understand you feeling that there was no good time to tell me, after hiding it from the beginning.”

Maybe someday, I’ll be able to reveal my secret.

“Leon....Thank you.”

“Don’t worry about it. Please, as a favor to me, don’t feel bad about keeping a secret.”

“Eh?”

“Uhh, nothing, nevermind. I thought you said that hair ornament was a memento?”

“Yeah. I wanted you to think that it was something important, because I’d be revealed to be a High Elf if my hair ornament was taken from me. I’m sorry, it was a small lie.”

“I see, because of the circumstances you had no choice. So, Alice is a High Elf.....”

I move my gaze to look at Alice’s mother.

“Me and that man are normal elves. Alice is an atavism. In other words she has the abilities of a High Elf.” (TN: Here’s the wiki for atavism if anyone is confused. Couldn’t think of a simpler word.) “....Hmm? Well, I know Alice has heightened senses, but are there other abilities she has?”

“I say abilities, but there are two that exist. The abilities she has come from legendary heroes that have already passed.”

“Ah~....”

So a High Elf retains two abilities from legendary heroes?

Moreover, she can use spirit magic, I have knowledge from my previous life, but doesn’t she have more of a cheat than me? I envy her so much.

Usually this kind of ability would be restricted to the reincarnated hero.

“By the way, I heard that one of the abilities of High Elves was being able to transfer knowledge.”

“Transfer knowledge? Well, I guess humans would think of it like that.”

Alice’s mother lets out a small laugh.

“Is it different than that?”

“It’s similar, but the true ability is being able to share one’s senses.”

“...Sharing senses? How would that be used?”

“Well....that’s something secret that happens at night.”

“M-m-m-m-mother!?”

“Haha~ I can tell by how you’re panicking that you were thinking about that.”

“Wa—wa—wa. Sh-she’s wrong, it was something else, Leon!”

I pretended not to be listening at all.

“Joking aside, speaking of sensory sharing, the ability to transfer techniques is useful, for example, you know that it is difficult to master magic on your own?”

“Umm, yes. I have been told that it is incredibly difficult to learn the basics and near impossible to master.”

“Well, it’s difficult to learn the feeling of controlling the magic in the air, this alone would usually take years to master, but what if one could share this feeling with others....?”

“— Then you could learn to use magic easily?”

“Exactly. It’s quite amazing, don’t you agree?”

It’s beyond amazing. I now understood why she said it’s a little different than the ability to transfer knowledge.

Even if someone were to be given knowledge, this knowledge wouldn’t be very useful if you had yet to master it. On the other hand, sharing the way something feels once you’ve mastered it would aid in teaching.

Knowledge itself needs to be memorized first, but using the High Elf’s ability you can grasp how this feels immediately. Especially when it comes to

something technical like magic, this would be incredibly useful.

“Can she share her senses with anyone?”

“Unfortunately there are restrictions. Only the person engaged to her can use sensory sharing, and she can only become engaged to one person. Whoever she becomes engaged to she will spend the rest of her life with.”

“I see....”

“I’ve heard from Alice about the situation you are in, don’t you think you should become engaged to her to help your older sister?”

I certainly would love the ability to use magic and save Claire. If Alice can teach me the art of magic and other things, rescuing Claire would definitely be possible.

However, I refused.

“Wouldn’t that be the same as me being forced into a political marriage? I want Alice to be happy, so I won’t force her to marry me to help me save Claire.”

Alice’s mother let out a faint smile after hearing my answer.

“I’m truly surprised. Caring enough for someone to put their desires before your own, are you really the age you appear to be? Alice has been dependable since she was a child, but you’re different from that. ”

“Ahahaha.....”

I have been alive for around 30 years. Though I only appear to be about eleven years old, that’s probably why I appear to be so thoughtful....Not like I can actually say that.

“I understand Leon-kun’s decision, but how does Alice feel?”

“I....Hey, Leon. Do you remember when I first suggested we come to the elf village? It would be tough to save Claire if only I could use magic, but I said I had another idea.”

“Yeah, I think I remember that. Do you mean.....?”

“Yes, I planned to become engaged to Leon from the beginning.”

“That’s....but is that okay with you? If we became engaged we’d be together forever....Then, are you trying to say....?”

When I allude to us becoming married, Alice’s face was dyed red.

“Well, it’s fine. We just have to be engaged, it’s not like we’re actually married.”

“— But it’s not like you’re against getting married~~~”

“Mother!?”

“What, it’s true, right?”

“Well, that’s right, but you don’t have to say that so bluntly!”

Alice looks cute as her face turns crimson. I was trying not to listen too much until recently, but.....Alice likes me?

If so, I’m happy, but .... I am only ten years old. I can’t know for sure that she likes me in the way I’m thinking when I’m just a child.

“An-anyway, it’s not like it means we’re married. I’m serious. It’s similar, but it’s different, but it certainly would be a lie if I said there’s no meaning to us being engaged — but it’s not something we need to think about!”

For something that we don’t need to think about, she seems to be thinking about it a lot.

Alice, who’s still blushing, is desperately searching for a way to escape.

I feel like she’s causing me to think more about it as well.

I have the same goal as Alice, we each want to become happy together.....No, no I need to calm down and think.

What can I do in this atmosphere. It seems like this conversation won’t end until the issue of engagement has been decided. That’s what I think anyway, but it’s not like Alice actually confessed to me. Let me think about why this engagement would be bad.

.....Well, considering my partner in the engagement, there is no reason for me to refuse. Rather, you could say it would make sense for us to be engaged.

“I’m just checking, but you’re not doing this because you feel forced to, right

Alice?”

“Of course I’m not. Obviously I want to help save Claire, but the only reason I even considered engagement is because my partner would be you, Leon.”

“.....Okay, then let’s get engaged. No, that’s not right.”

I clear my throat, stand up, and move in front of Alice. Then I get down on one knee and lightly kiss the back of Alice’s delicate hand.

This is how I’ll show that I plan on protecting Alice in every way I can. I slowly look up at Alice’s face.

“I am still a small child now, but I will be able to protect Alice soon. So Alice, please become engaged to me.”

“.....Yes.”

Alice’s face becomes an even deeper shade of red, and she starts acting bashful. I will never forget this moment with Alice. — I allow myself to fully enjoy this moment, I can feel embarrassed some other time.

# Chapter 4–3: Preparations for the Rescue

In a meadow near the village of the elves.

Alice and I stood facing each other for our engagement ceremony — correction. Alice is kneeling before me standing because of our height difference.

“Then, Leon, take my hand.”

“Like this?”

I grasp both of Alice’s hands. That’s when, a magic square spread out around us, and heat flowed into me from Alice’s delicate fingers.

“This is.....?”

“I’m connecting a path between us. We’ll temporarily share each other’s senses, but don’t be surprised.”

Even as Alice says this, the heat begins to flow into me even more intensely. And then, somewhat, I could feel Alice’s hand connected to me, as if I were Alice holding Alice’s hand.

It’s as if my body has become two. The amount of information my brain is receiving doubles and I feel a small pain in my brain — but this only lasts for a moment.

Soon these sensations faded away.

“Leon, are you okay?”

“I-I’m fine.....so has the ceremony ended?”

“Yes. It was a success. Leon and I are now connected.”

“Is that so?”

I stared at the palm of my hand. I could definitely feel something being shared with me earlier, but now it seems to be gone.

“The sensory sharing can be turned on and off. It would be bad if our senses were shared all of the time.”



Ah, I think I understand. Receiving that much information at once, all of the time, it would likely overload your brain.

“It seems like it would be hard for me to practice magic in that situation.”

“It should be fine, I can adjust the intensity of it.”

“You’re saying that you can adjust the amount of our senses we share with each other?”

“Yeah, so it’s possible for me to only transfer a specific sense.”

Alice says this and pokes her cheek. At that moment, I felt as if someone was pushing their finger against my cheek.

“Oo...so you’re just sharing your sense of touch?”

“Yep, this way it’s more concentrated. You don’t feel as if your finger is pressing against your cheek, right?”

“Ah, now that I think about it....”

There was a feeling as if someone was pushing against my cheek, but I didn’t feel like I was pushing against someone’s cheek. Indeed, this is true sensory sharing. It seems quite interesting.

“By the way, right now it’s only sharing the feeling one way, but it’s also possible to share it bi-directionally, which is the original usage of sensory sharing —”

Alice waves her right arm lightly. Immediately afterwards my bangs began to blow from the breeze.

Along with that, Alice takes in the surrounding mana and converts it into magical power. The image of the wind converging on Alice was impressive, this is spirit magic.

All of this information flows into me in real time.

“This is.....magic?”

“To be precise, this is spirit magic. The caster uses the gathered magical power to trade with a spirit, the spirit, in return, grants the caster’s request. The important thing to remember is, the spirit grants whatever the caster requests.

Therefore, the caster needs to create a clear picture as to what exactly they want the spirit to do.”

“I see.....Can I try a little?”

“Of course.”

Now that I’ve received permission, I give it a try. I begin to convert mana into magical power. So far, this is something that I have been practicing for a few years so there is not much difficulty yet.

Next, I need to imagine the magical power being converted into wind.....how do I imagine wind? No, I don’t need to think about it so deeply, I just need to remember how I felt when Alice was doing it.

I try to picture it, but nothing happens.

‘Hmm, this is quite difficult.’

“Because to the average person is an unknown feeling.”

“I guess so...”

I could feel Alice transforming the magical power into the wind earlier, but those were only her senses that were transferred. Nothing Alice pictured in her mind was transferred to me.

It is difficult to explain, but ... Alice didn’t put words or images into the magical power. It’s kind of similar to trying to describe the emotions a song brings up in you to someone else.

So, I understand the emotions described to me, but I can’t reproduce them well as it is an unknown feeling to me. I want to understand this more.

Basically, I don’t understand the feeling that well.

“It will be difficult until I get used to it....Would it be better to first try using a template?”

“Template?”

“When you learn dance steps or something similar, you will remember it according to the music and songs you practice too, right? Similar to that, reinforce the image by practicing it in conjunction with a spell.”

Alice thinks for a moment and points her right arm towards a fallen tree and begins to create magical power.

“Spirits of the wind, Cut through my enemies — Air Slash!”

A simple image of cutting through an enemy with a sharp wind is transmitted to me by sensory sharing. At the same time, a single blade of wind was released from Alice’s palm and made a shallow cut in the fallen tree.

“ — Well, it feels something like that.”

“Just now, that incantation — Do those words help you to imagine the spell?”

“Yep. The command becomes pretty straightforward. Trying to use magic this way in combat is rather difficult, but for training, using this template should be fine.”

“I see. It may be possible for me this way.”

And so, my magical training began.

Incidentally, with general magic and spirit magic — it is also common to use longer incantations. I’ve found that Alice’s magic is quite unique.

One week later, we were still at the elf village.

Of course, I did not give up on rescuing Claire. Alice’s mother had sent out an elf spy into the Sfir territory. For now, we were waiting on them to return.

And today, the spy returned.

“— This is the situation regarding the Sfir territory.”

“Thank you for your hard work, you may rest now as we need to discuss our plans for the future.”

The spy received thanks from Alice’s Mother. Alice’s Mother, Alice, and I began to look over the intel.

Based on the information the spy brought back, the difficulty of the rescue was made clear to us.

According to the report, it has become a well-known fact that the Grances family was attacked, and out of support for the Grances family the Sfir family protected Claire Ridill.

Everything up to this point is rather straightforward, but....the problem is the statement that the Sfir family has made public since taking Claire.

According to the Sfir family's announcement, it was extremists that hold a grudge against aristocrats that attacked the Grances family, and Clare Ridill is still being targeted by them. Therefore, on the night of the next full moon, they have stated they will hide Claire Ridill in a secure location.

But, that makes no sense.

It was members of the Sfir family that attacked the Grances family, and if they really wanted to ensure Claire's safety, they wouldn't specify the date they are moving her.

In other words, they're sending me a message. If I want Claire returned safely, I will meet with them by the time of the next full moon. If I don't then they can't guarantee the safety of Claire.

It's out of the question to meet with them face-to-face.

If Claire is their hostage, I would have nothing to negotiate with and they would be in complete control.

So, that makes that rescue method impossible.....I doubt that the Sfir family are just waiting for me to show up either.

"This is troublesome...."

Even if it is a trap, there's no way I'd just abandon Claire, but to just walk into an obvious trap.....There has to be a better way.

"Leon-kun, you've been practicing magic, right?"

'Alice has been teaching me, but.....it's difficult.'

We have been practicing for a week now. Yet, I am still unable to properly cast a spell.

Of course, I was expecting it to take a while to be able to use magic, but the next full moon is eight days away. It will take about a week for us to reach the Sfir territory from here, so if we don't leave now, we won't be able to get there in time.

“If I’m unable to use magic, do you think Alice can manage on her own?”

“Hmm.....Leon, do you know the layout of the Sfir mansion?”

“Yes, I know the general layout.”

I only visited there twice, but I went to Sofia’s room and the office. I also was in the living room and the kitchen, so I can understand which section is on which side.

While thinking back on my visits to the mansion, I described the layout to Alice.

“Depending on the amount of guards they have, it seems like it will be easier to invade than the Grances mansion.”

“.....Is it?”

“Yeah, there are many small blind spots, corners, *etc.* Due to this, walking around randomly would increase the chances of running into guards, but because I have the benefit of heightened senses I can avoid them.”

“Well...for Alice lots of corners would definitely make it easier to hide.”

“Yep, but that’s not to say that it will be easy. I don’t know where they are keeping Claire-sama, so I think the risk of being caught increases the more time I spend trying to find her.”

“What’s your plan if you’re caught?”

“There would be only one option, to breakthrough by force, but I have little real combat experience. So if I am alone, I may become overwhelmed.”

“I see....”

I thought it might be possible with Alice’s spirit magic and her heightened senses, but I guess it would still be difficult.

“I guess it is impossible if I’m unable to learn magic. Is there anyway for me to learn magic in one week?”

“Well.....it’s hard to imagine it being possible as things are now.”

“Hmm....then, should we consider alternatives.”

What else can we do...Maybe it would be best to ask Claire's fiancé. I could see this causing a lot of issues, but at least this would guarantee Claire's safety.

"Hey, Mother. Will you help?"

".....Personally I would like to help, but if the elves were to attack a human residence, we would be unable to protect ourselves from the repercussions."

"Hmm...."

Alice puffs out her cheeks, dissatisfied.

"I'm sorry, Alice. Leon-kun, I'm sorry."

"No, I understand your circumstances. I'm sure it was difficult for you to just send a spy."

My problems have nothing to do with the elves. Alice's mother helped out due to Alice's involvement, some of the elves may even consider this an abuse of her power. I don't know how much power Alice's mother has, but I doubt she can just do anything she pleases.

"It was for my cute daughter and her special person. This was the least I could do."

"....Sorry."

"There is no need to apologize, because this is the path that my daughter has chosen. It's enough if you accept my daughter's feelings."

In a normal situation, I'd have expected to be accused of putting her daughter in harm's way, but due to what she just said — I feel like she's telling me to take responsibility in the future.

When thinking this, I glance slightly at Alice's mother, she was looking back at me with a small smile.

"...Leon? Is something wrong?"

"I-it's nothing. Let's think about what we can do to save Claire."

"I agree. Well then, first off, the decision we need to make is how to go about saving Claire —"

In this way, we made plans to save Claire.

## Chapter 4–4: Our Resolve

I decided on how to go about saving Claire and we left the elves' village after being sent off by Alice's mother, and we soon arrived at the Sfir territory without any problems.

By the way I'm slightly disguising myself by wearing commoners clothing. Alice has also put on her hair ornament. Alice's face is unknown to the Sfir family, but if she is known to be a high-elf, she would stand out in a different way.

In this way, we arrived at the town of Sfir. We were hidden in an alley among the shadows as we observed the Sfir mansion.

"So, Alice? Do you think it's possible?"

"The sentries..... There are two people watching the gate and there is also a patrol consisting of two people. So it looks like there are two groups of two. I don't know how many guards are inside, but I think it should be possible to execute the plan."

"I see....."

Finally, I can save Claire. Even though I thought this, I could feel my heart sinking.

I want to save Claire. That is absolutely true, but...I turn my eyes to Alice who was cuddling up to me.

Alice puts all of her trust in me and my plan and pushes forward to save Claire. The way she looks right now reminds me so much of Milli that day....

If Alice was lost because of my actions — this feeling grew the closer we got to the Sfir mansion.

"Hey, Alice. Over the past week I've also become able to use spirit magic, if I use simple templates. So, there's no need for you to risk —"

I couldn't finish my sentence. Alice had placed her small, delicate finger over my mouth.

“....Hey, do you remember what I said about my older brother?”

“Ah, I remember. You said he was very kind.”

“Yeah, my older brother was very kind. I was so weak so he always had to protect me, but I was oblivious to this and I didn’t notice my brother was forcing himself to do so, as a result I lost my precious brother.”

Is she thinking of her brother? Alice looked up at the blue moon in the bright sky.

“I will never repeat that mistake again, I definitely do not want to feel pain like that ever again. So, I will go to help Claire with you Leon.”

“I understand...”

That’s right....

There’s no way Alice would allow me to leave her here while I go in alone. If she has a fear of losing people that are important to her, it’s natural she would have a fear of being left behind.

I understand her reasoning, but still, I don’t want her to get involved just to help me.

“Besides, I also want to save Claire.”

“You do?”

I become puzzled. Thinking back, I don’t remember them being that close.

“I was originally going to be sold to a very bad place, but Claire-sama forced the slave trader to sell me to her. Claire-sama saved me.”

“So, Alice, you want to help Claire?”

“Of course, I may not have originally thought of helping Claire-sama, but.... I’m very thankful to her for introducing me to you, Leon. So, I also want to save Claire.”

“You want to help Claire for your own reasons.”

If she tells me that, there’s no way I can stop her.

“I understand. Let’s save Claire together.”



“.....Yep.”

Alice gently smiled and turned her eyes back towards the mansion.

“The next time the patrol passes, I will climb over the fence to enter the grounds. I will make footholds for you to climb, Leon follow immediately after me.”

“Right.”

I give a short answer and I wait for Alice's signal. Shortly afterwards, Alice began to slowly approach the mansion, then gave a small signal to me. I silently followed after her.

“Now then....if you would please.”

At the same time Alice lightly shook her right hand, before the wall that was about 3 meters high, stairs made of rock were created that went halfway up the wall.

After all Alice's spirit magic is amazing.

I had been practicing magic using templates, I try to follow Alice's example, but I'm not quite able to do so yet.

“Leon?”

“It's nothing.”

I follow after Alice and climb up the wall. Immediately after that, Alice turns her line of sight to the stairs and they disappeared.....Is that a perfect incantation-less spell?

“....It's okay...There doesn't appear to be anybody around. I'm dropping down now.”

Alice jumps from the top of the wall to land inside the mansion grounds. She's very agile.....but I unconsciously hesitate to jump down.

No, the height of the wall is close to 3 meters. Even to an adult this height would be intimidating, but it's much too high for a small child.

“....Ah, I get it. Wait a moment.”

Alice made a small staircase on the inside of the wall and stretched out her

hands towards me at the top. She was trying to say, you can jump down and I will catch you.....

“No, no, no this is hard for me to accept. Wouldn’t this scene usually be reversed?”

I appeal to her desperately, but Alice only shows a wry smile.

“If you don’t hurry the patrol on the outside may find you.”

“Kuu...I want to become an adult already.”

I endured the embarrassment and jumped down into Alice’s arms.

“Woah, you’re heavy as expected.....Alright, you should be fine now.”

“Uuuu...I can’t be a husband like this.”

“Leon didn’t you do many things to avoid getting married?”

“.....That’s true.”

We infiltrated the grounds of the mansion. We hid in the shrubbery and observed the main house.

“There seems to be less guards than I expected.....Maybe they weren’t expecting anyone to attempt to break into the mansion.”

“They did specify the date and time when Claire was to be moved. That was all directed at me, but please remain vigilant, as there could still be a trap waiting ahead.”

“Yeah, I know. You know the plan, right?”

“Yes, I got it.”

Even if I say plan, first of we will find our way to Sophia’s room on the third floor. There, I will try to get Claire’s location from her. After that the plan becomes somewhat flexible and we will have to adapt to the circumstances.

Sadly, this is somewhat unavoidable as we don’t know where Claire is currently located.

“By the way, will Sophia really help us?”

“..... Sophia is able to tell if a person is lying or not. I will tell her about the

situation, and I think she will tell us where Claire is being kept.....”

“Think?”

“Unfortunately I can’t be sure. I honestly don’t believe Sophia is involved in any of this....”

I have postponed my judgment, but considering what Regis has done, it’s become obvious that Sophia’s parents are involved as well.

I want her to be on my side... but I can’t know if she will turn on her own parents.

“.....So, what if she tries to alert the rest of the mansion?”

She must be concerned about my feelings for Sophia. Alice looks at me, she can see the hesitation on my face.

.....This isn’t good. I need to get a grip on myself, if I hesitate here it will make Alice nervous. I need to give her a firm answer.

“The objective here is to save Claire, so if Sophia tries to alert anyone, at that time...Sophia would also be our enemy.”

Going against my own desires, I declared this to Alice.

## Chapter 4–5: Sophia's Ability

We arrived in front of Sophia's bedroom. In front of the door, Alice checked for signs of anyone else in the room, before confirming that there was only one child.

"Sophia...I will enter first, then Alice follow after me."

"Okay, once we enter I will ask the spirits to keep our voices from leaking out."

"Please do. Now then, let's go."

We quietly enter the room. At that moment, the surprised Sophia stood up from a chair and rolled up the hem of her skirt to reach for a dagger.

"Wait, wait! It's me Sophia."

".....Leon onii-chan?"

Sophia realizes that the intruder is me and becomes surprised. The moment she realized who I was she immediately ran up to me.

"Leon onii-chan, why — *mugu*"

I quickly cover Sophia's mouth before she can raise her voice. Alice's spirit magic should be enough, but I don't know how well it will conceal our voices.

"Sorry, Sophia. Please keep your voice down."

Sophia had started to panic when I covered her mouth, but I guess due to her ability she was able to tell what I was feeling — and quickly dropped any hostility towards me.

She quickly nodded and turned her eyes to Alice.

"Nice to meet you Sophia-chan. We're not going to hurt you, so don't be scared."

"Don't worry she's a friend. Sophia, you can tell she's not a bad person, right?"

Sophia nods. I then slowly move my hand.

“.....Leon onii-chan, why are you here?”

Sophia rolls up her skirt and puts away the dagger that she pulled out earlier. Hmm...why does she have that in the first place.

.....That being said, I was told that Sophia received some sword training from Regis. Maybe that's why she was so quick to pull it out.

I wonder if she's more skilled with a sword than me....After seeing her actions just now I wouldn't doubt it.

“Leon onii-chan?”

“Ah, well ummm.....I came to bring Claire back, do you know where she is?”

“Claire onee-chan is in the south wing in the innermost room. Anyway, Leon onii-chan are you okay? I was worried about you when I heard the Grances mansion was attacked.”

“Is that what you were told....?”

It's somewhat true, we were attacked. So Sophia had no reason to doubt what she was told. She doesn't know anything about the attack after all.

“.....Leon onii-chan? Are you trying to hide something from Sophia?”

“.....”

I realize my mistake and try to think of something else immediately.

However,

“.....You realized you made a mistake and are panicking. I can tell you feel anxious about Sophia. Are you trying to hide something from Sophia?”

Sophia can read other's feelings and so I was too late. It can't be helped. Well, I did consider this may be a possible outcome.

“.....To be honest...I have been hiding something from you. But, the only reason I'm hiding it is to protect you, can't you tell? So, please, don't ask me to tell you.”

I try to put forward all the emotions I have of wanting to protect Sophia, and I look her straight in the eye.

“If you say it like that, I’ll just want to know what it is more.”

“I know, but Sophia, I’m sorry, I can’t tell you.”

Sophia’s father may have killed my family. There’s no way I can tell her that. So, this should be the right thing to do.

However, Sophia was still dissatisfied and puffed out her cheeks.

“..... Mouu, fine. If Leon onii-chan won’t tell me, I’ll just read it myself.”

Sophia grumbled and grabbed onto my hand.

“Eh, what?”

“ — Leon, get away from that child!”

“...Eh?”

“The sooner the better!”

I’m grabbed by my neck and pulled away from Sophia.

“What’s wrong so suddenly?”

“Do you remember when I told you I can adjust the power of sensory sharing? I’m guessing Sophia does the same, she usually suppresses the full power of her ability!”

“Th-that’s not possible.”

I quickly turn my gaze back to Sophia.

Sophia’s eyes were opened wide in disbelief.

“No, that’s, that’s a lie, it’s a lie! Daddy would never do that!”

“Sophia calm down!”

“No, no, no, no, no, noooooooooooooooooooooo!”

“Guu, Alice!”

“ — Right. Spirits!”

Alice calls on the spirits causing Sophia to fall asleep suddenly.

“Was that just now.....because she was able to see my memories?”

“I don’t know the full extent of her ability, but.....if she was only able to see your memory I don’t believe she’d be so upset.”

“If she could only see my memory?”

“I’m guessing Sophia.....she was reliving your memory Leon.”

“Reliving.....Just in a few seconds she relived everything I saw that day?”

If that is really what happened to Sophia, I’m afraid of what else she may have seen.

I have the memories and past experiences from my previous life. Then there’s all of the sorrow and anger that I’ve experienced, Sophia experienced it in only seconds.

If that is the case, then I can’t imagine how shocked Sophia must have been.

“.....Sorry, I should’ve noticed earlier.”

“No, it was my fault.”

If I think back, Sophia had a habit of grabbing my hand.

Thinking back to the time Claire said she wanted Sophia to be her sister-in-law. Sophia grabbed onto my hand. At the time I thought it was because she was feeling anxious, but in reality it might have been so she could read my mind. I should have noticed it sooner.

“Will Sophia be okay?”

“.....I’m not sure, but we don’t have time to find out — !”

Alice quickly turned to stare at the door.

“....Is it the guards?”

“In the hall, one, two..... four people in total, it seems like an ambush.”

“So —- do they know we’re here?”

“Probably, I’m guessing this room was already being watched.”

“....Damn it, so this was a trap?”

If you want to prevent an attack, you would need to put a lot of guards around the mansion. However, if you intend to capture an intruder, the further

you draw the intruder into the mansion the less chance of escape they have.

The rooms with Sophia and Claire were under watch before we even arrived here.

“...The window?”

This is the third floor, but the jump down would be possible with Alice’s spirit magic. I thought so, and ran to the window, but it wouldn’t budge.

“It’s no use, the window seems to have been blocked, they were anticipating this as well. What should we do? If we jump out now and attack we may have a chance if we take them by surprise.”

“How about.....”

The people outside don’t know that we are aware of the ambush. They’re just waiting for us to leave the room.

I don’t think we’d be able to surprise them by rushing out.

“....We can ask them what their goal is, if it’s reasonable we may be able to negotiate.”

“And what if it’s impossible to negotiate? If Claire-sama really is being held hostage?”

“In that case.....”

“Don’t even think of telling me to run away on my own.”

I let out a sigh, Alice was able to tell what I had been thinking.

“If the negotiations break down, neutralize them with spirit magic. After we break through we will go to help Claire, even if she is being held hostage.”

Alright. We’ll save Claire and escape together.”

“.....That’s right.”

If Claire is being held hostage, it will be even harder to get to her. If that is the case I may have to make a hard choice.

I push such thoughts to the back of my mind and place my hand on the sword hanging from my waist.



It's a sword that I got from Alice's mother, it's not the sword I picked up at the Grances mansion. The sword isn't a magic item, but it is easy to use because it is made for someone my size.

My skill level with swords has not improved.....I can only use spirit magic at an elementary level. I'll need to find time to say the incantation to use any magic.

I took a deep breath as I placed my hand on the doorknob.

## Chapter 4–6: Confrontation

“Well then....should I open the door?”

I check with Alice before slowly opening the door. Carlos and Regis stood there waiting. There were also two knights with them.

“.....Hmm... I guess you are aware of the ambush. My daughter.....has she fainted? I’m guessing you didn’t kill her.”

“We put her to sleep because she became upset, she’s not injured. So, you really are the mastermind.”

“You say it like it’s a bad thing. Even though I have fulfilled your wish”

“....Huh?”

What is he talking about? He killed my family to fulfill my wish?

“You told me that you were treated miserably being the child of a mistress, and you were deprived of freedom. This way you will take up the position of Earl.”

“.....You’re saying you killed Father, Caroline, and my brother for me?”

“Yes, your father, who was the Earl, your brother who was next in line to become Earl, and the wife that could have opposed you, all of them dead. Claire Ridill is in my hands, you have nobody left to oppose you, and you are now the Earl of Grances.”

“You can’t be serious! I never wanted that, I just wanted to be free!”

I wanted to be free and become happy, that’s all I wanted. I never once thought of wanting someone dead. Then why....my anger builds up in me.

“It certainly doesn’t appear to be something you wanted, but it’s something I needed.”

“....What do you mean?”

“I wanted you to marry Sophia because I wanted to form a connection with the Grances family, but this would be pointless if you were just the child of a

mistress.”

“So, you plan to make me a puppet when I become Earl?”

To my question, Carlos nods. I understood that Carlos was being honest. I was overcome with despair.

“.....Why, if you wanted power, why not accept my offer from before.....why did you do this!?”

“Offer?.....Oh ..... That delusion of yours that sugar can be produced in warm regions? I didn’t believe that story from the beginning.”

“— Wh-what are you talking about!? Sophia could tell that I wasn’t lying!”

“The only thing that my daughter can see is whether the other person is telling a lie, whether or not the content is true or not is a different story.”

“That is.....”

“In the first place, if there was such a crop everyone would know of it. Yet, nobody has any knowledge of a crop like that. So, how would you, someone that has been locked away his entire life and never received a proper education, know about it?”

“.....”

I was expecting him to doubt my knowledge for this very reason. That’s why I was going to tell him about what happened with the influenza outbreak if he doubted me — Since he agreed to everything so quickly, there was no opportunity to tell him of my achievements so far. I thought it was because he believed me, but.....now I understand. He never trusted me.

“.....I can answer you, what Leon said is true.”

“Girl, are you the one that told him what to say that day? I don’t know what your plan was, but if you’re going to lie, you’ll need to come up with a better lie than that.”

“.....It was a normal reaction to try to defend Leon, right?”

Alice quietly says this to herself. Sorry, Alice. Because of me she was labelled a liar.

“Thank you for defending me Alice, but it’s too late for him to believe what I said.”

“Hmm? Does that mean our business negotiations have broken down?”

“Naturally. Even facing the threat of death I would never negotiate with a man who killed members of my family for his own selfish reasons — It would be too unpleasant even if I were to be reborn.”

“Then the question is, what will you do for your sister —”

Carlos then turned his eyes to Sophia. No, unlike you, I wouldn’t use Sophia as a hostage.

I don’t care enough to correct his misunderstanding.

“...Fine then. I see you’re unwilling to submit until the end. Men, show them the reality of their situation.”

“ — Ha-!”

Regis thrust his sword towards me. At the same time, I brought up my short sword to parry him.

“.....You plan to kill me? I thought you wanted to use me as Earl?”

“Please rest assured, even if you had failed to parry my attack I would not have killed you. I’ve been given permission to injure you if necessary.”

“Guh!”

I pushed back against Regis’ sword, then Regis pushed back, and I used his force to jump back to create some distance between us. I then began collecting the surrounding mana in my left arm that wasn’t holding the sword.

“That bluff again! I won’t be fooled twice!”

“Is that what you think!?”

I point my left arm towards Regis as he rushed towards me.

“Spirit of the flames. Accept this mana and grant my wish!”

An incantation — To be more precise, the words I said call forth the spirit of the flames, in return for the mana I’ve gathered I gain control of the spirit of the

flames in my left arm. By the way, this is really bringing back my chuunibyouto memories.

“Wha-!”

Regis quickly tries to stop and avoid — but he’s too slow.

“- Flame Lance!”

I imagine what I wish to happen and scream this towards Regis. At the moment, the flames that were gathered in my arm shot towards him. The aim was perfect and it hit Regis, who stopped moving.

However —

“.....Just this much?”

Although there was evidence of a slight burn, Regis stood there calmly looking at me.

“You’re joking, right? It hardly even affected you!?”

“Taking that blow was easy. It’s truly amazing that someone your age is able to use spirit magic, but there is no impact compared to a master spirit magician.”

“You’re saying that even though it was a direct hit? Then — !”

Even if it causes me to collapse, I’ll have to use another spell.

“Do you really think I’ll let you?”

Regis quickly closed the distance between us and swung the flat side of his sword at my body. I was focusing on collecting mana and couldn’t parry in time — I took the blow and was thrown off my feet. There’s nothing I can do against it and I’m thrown across the room.

“— Leon!?”

Alice, who was battling with the two knights, let out an anxious yell.

“Guh. I...I’m fine. Focus on yourself, Alice.....”

I grab the short sword and unsteadily get to my feet.

Even though I am full of openings, Regis shows no intention of attacking.

Rather, he sheathed his sword.

“.....Why aren't you attacking?”

“My Lord wishes your will to be broken.”

I'd like to say I thought I stood a chance against Regis, but in reality the difference in our ability is massive.

If Alice was able to take care of the knights we may stand a chance — I turn my gaze to her.

Alice is putting up a good fight, but it seems that the two knights are able to keep up with her. She is unable to land any finishing blows against the two enemies.

“They are some of the strongest knights in the Order, don't think you'd be of any assistance against them.”

Regis who noticed where I was looking tried to dishearten me, but I ignored him. At the same time I begin to form an image in my mind, and I begin to collect mana in my right arm. Then, I convert that mana into magical power and — — Flame Lance!

“Wha-! No incantation!?”

Regis is still able to twist his body even though he's astonished. In this way, he avoided my spell, but lost his balance — But, I am already aiming for his chest.

“Haaaaaaa!”

I put all of my strength into this attack. The sword was about to pierce Regis' chest, but....Just before the sword made contact, I was hit from the side and was sent flying.

What...what happened? My ribs are in a terrible amount of pain, how was I attacked from the side?

“That was surprising.....It's truly terrifying that one so young is able to use magic with no incantation.”

“You say that even after you managed to counter.....”

“Even without using an incantation, there is no threat with such a

straightforward attack like that.”

“Is this because of the difference in our actual fighting experience...?”

“That’s right. If you had a few years of fighting experience, then that attack may have hit me.”

His voice is getting closer. I try to force myself to stand, but my body doesn’t move as I wish. I may have a concussion.

“Now then, what other tricks do you have left? Throw everything at me until you have no will left to oppose my Lord.”

I have nothing left. That was my trump card.

Even though I was able to surprise Regis by not using an incantation, I wasted that opportunity.

A real no-chant technique, is what Alice is doing. She’s able to use magic continuously while only picturing what she wishes to have happen. I just used the incantation in my mind before casting the spell.

In other words, I’m still using an incantation, Regis just can’t hear it. Therefore, compared with a real no-chant technique, it is overwhelmingly inferior in time needed to cast and ability to activate at will.

Even using petty tricks like that didn’t work against Regis. I don’t even know what he did to counter me, let alone a way to win this fight.

“...So, what will you do? If you won’t get up, shall I continue?”

“– Guh”

I roll away to avoid Regis’ kick. I force myself to stand, but, almost immediately, I received a blow to my stomach.

However, I feel like he’s going easy on me. That blow was not as painful. I may be able to counter attacks like this — and the moment I raised my arms to counter — “One more! Another! Again! How’s this!?”

I was hit with four quick blows before I collapsed to the ground.

.....It hurts. It’s unbelievably painful.

Ha, going easy — it’s more like he knows exactly where to hit to cause the

most pain. I'm able to remain conscious and I don't feel as if anything is broken. My entire body is screaming out in pain.

"Leon, hang on, Leon!?"

A soft sensation envelops me. Suddenly, Alice's face was right in front of me.

"...Idiot, I told you to focus on your own fight...."

"It's fine. I was able to defeat them."

"You beat two opponents.....Alice is amazing."

"Yep, that's right. So, you don't need to worry anymore and you can rest. I'll finish this."

Alice gently stood up after setting me on the floor, she was trying to cause me relief by smiling. Her appearance was as if — "You look like.....the main character of a story...."

"If that's the case then Leon is the heroine."

Alice smiled and brushed her cherry blossom colored hair out of her face. Then, she slowly turned towards Regis.

".....Sorry for the wait."

"I don't mind. My objective is to break your will to fight. If you're ready.....shall we begin?"

".....Anytime. I'll make you regret hurting someone so precious to me."



## Chapter 4–7: Asking Price

Alice and Regis were silently facing each other holding their swords out. The atmosphere around them was suffocating just looking at them, Regis was the first to move.

“—!?”

The moment I thought that, the figure of Regis blurred, he was immediately in front of Alice.

Seeing this, I knew he had been going easy on me earlier. Quickly, Regis pulled out his sword and slashed diagonally at Alice. Regis continued to attack in a flurry of blows.

Alice only just manages to avoid his attacks, or she is able to parry them with her own sword.

“As expected, you’re fast!”

“What strange magic are you using!?”

I only notice after looking closely at the two of them. Every time Alice parried his attack, a trace amount of magical power would dance around her. Is that.....Is her spirit magic deflecting his attacks?

“You’ve surpassed all of my expectations so far — it’s truly amazing! But, by constantly protecting yourself, you can’t win!”

Regis slashes diagonally again with his sword, before he rolls to the side of Alice. Regis then slashes sideways at her. Regis continued to change up his attacks in this way as he released a continuous wave of attacks.

“Oh dear, what’s wrong!? Are you only able to protect yourself!?”

“ —- How about this!”

Alice continued to avoid Regis’ consecutive attacks, before stabbing towards the chest of Regis. — That’s when, from Alice’s blind spot, Regis’ fist came flying towards her.

At that moment, I realized how Regis had countered my attack earlier.

“— Alice!”

Even if I yell out now, I know Alice won't be able to react in time. At the same time I yelled out, Regis' fist slammed into the side of Alice.

And —

“Guu , what is this — !”

It was Regis that yelled out in pain. Looking at him, blood was flowing from Regis' fist and his arm had shallow cuts along it.

“When I put spirit magic on the sword it only deflects attacks, but when I put it on a living object it can also counter.”

“Then, you were able to read my attack?”

“I saw when you used it against Leon. I assumed you would use it again in a similar situation.”

“Well done. However, wasn't it a mistake not to finish me off now? I won't make the same mistake twice.”

Regis said this and readies his sword again. It looks like he's taken no damage. It seems that his left arm can also be used with no problem.

– Despite this, Alice smiled a little.

“ Yes, it's already over.”

“Wha—”

Regis looked at Alice, speechless. That's only natural. Even I, who had been training with spirit magic under Alice, could not speak.

Alice's body was completely covered in glowing, beams of light. I can't even imagine how much magical power she has created.

“Why did you think I was going along with your meaningless words earlier?”

“Ar-are you a monster!?”

Regis began to retreat, one step, two steps backwards, but Alice didn't care and slowly raised her right arm.

And —

“...Spirits.”

Multiple spirits answered Alice’s call and the dazzling lights reflected in Regis’ eyes. Then, a blade made of wind and flames slashed at Regis’ body. The wind cut through his flesh, before the flames would burn the wound.

An extraordinary amount of power that makes any resistance look pointless. Still Regis desperately tried to avoid the attacks. He tried to parry it with his sword, but there is no technique that could stand against this overwhelming attack.

Just as it seemed Alice would win,

“— That’s enough!”

A woman’s voice rang out unexpectedly. When I looked around for the source I saw Elyse, Carlos’ wife, standing in the entrance of the room. She was restraining a girl.

“Claire!”

After finally being able to see Claire, I used all of my remaining strength to force myself to stand.

“...Otouto..kun? Why are you here!? Why are you so injured!?”

“It’s not as bad as it looks. Anyway, are you okay Claire?”

“I’m.....fine. I have been imprisoned, but they’ve treated me well enough.”

“Okay. Then, I’m glad.....”

“Is this touching reunion over now? If you don’t want me to kill your important sister, then you will obey everything I say.”

Trying to ruin our reunion, Elyse presses a knife against Claire.

“Otouto-kun, don’t listen to anything she says!”

“Be quiet! You will remain silent, unless you want me to hurt that pretty face of yours!”

Elyse brings the knife close to Claire’s face. Alice and I could do nothing but

remain still.

“Regis, can you still move?”

“ —Guu, I’m fine.”

What a loyal subject Regis is, he’s completely covered in bruises and can barely stand. Yet, he managed to stand up unsteadily. Elyse looked at Regis uninterested.

“Then, defeat that Elf before it’s too late.”

“Well...Elyse-sama—”

“Regis, did you not hear me?”

“.....Of course.”

Regis was confused at first, but turned to Alice as if he had made up his mind. Then, in an instant, Regis was next to Alice and slammed his fist into her stomach.

Regis must have put everything he had left into that one attack. Alice was sent flying and landed at my side with a groan.

“ — Alice, are you okay!?”

Even though my body still aches, I rush over to Alice’s fallen body and hold her in my arms.

“*cough*...Guu....I’m sorry. I can’t say that I’m okay....”

She must have been hit in the diaphragm. Alice is struggling to breathe and probably won’t be able to move for a while. This is bad, I turn my eyes to look at Claire.

Claire’s hands are tied behind her back and Elyse is holding a knife to her.

Even if Elyse is just a frail woman, I doubt Claire would be able to break free on her own. In other words, I have to help her somehow.....

What can I do? Maybe, knock Elyse over with magic and allow Claire to escape?

No, that wouldn’t work. There’s a chance I’d hit Claire. Also, if I can’t finish off

Elyse in one blow, there's a chance Claire may be killed.

Even if I can defeat her in one attack, Regis is still right here. He is injured, but if he manages to protect Elyse then it would be useless.

"So, have you given up?"

"Kuu....."

"Otouto-kun, don't worry about me!"

"I told you to be quiet!"

Elyse presses the knife into Claire's cheek, leaving a shallow cut. Seeing this, fear enveloped my heart.

However,

"—Otouto-kun, take Alice and run away!"

"Damn you, didn't you hear me!?"

Elyse shouts hysterically and raises the knife —

"STOP!"

Elyse swung the knife down before stopping it right in front of Claire's face.

That was dangerous. I thought for sure she was going to stab Claire. Elyse is behaving erratically, but Claire needs to remain calm to avoid angering her any further.

"Claire, please stay quiet!"

"But, otouto-kun all you want is to be happy, right!? How can you do that if you have to obey everything they say."

"— Claire!"

I raise my voice and cut off Claire's words.

Live freely and be happy. It was the last wish Saya had for me, but now it has also become my own wish.

However....

Someone important to me misunderstanding me, making them sad, and then

that important person died before I could fix the misunderstanding. I don't want to go through something like that again.

"The worst thing for me isn't to be deprived of freedom, but to lose someone important to me, so be quiet."

"But..."

"...It's okay, Claire. If we're all together, it won't be that bad."

As long as they can be used against me, Claire and Alice won't be treated terribly, and if I get results I should be treated fine as well.

I hate these people that killed my family, but if I close my eyes and force myself, I should be able to create a reasonably happy environment.

"Otouto-kun...I'm sor....I'm sorry...It's because of me...Uuu....."

Claire burst out into tears.

"Now that everything's settled, throw your weapons on the ground."

Carlos was now convinced of his victory. A disgusting smile appeared on his face.

"Do you guarantee the safety of Claire and Alice?"

"As long as you obey us."

".....Understood."

It's something I'm entirely against, but for now I have to obey Carlos and hope to find a chance to escape.....and at that time, after I had already given up — she woke up.

## Chapter 4–8: Rampage

Sofia slowly climbed off the bed. She still felt as if she was in a dream, her eyes looked vacant. She turned her eyes to the door with a relaxed expression on her face.

“Father...What are you doing?”

“So-Sophia, you’re awake?”

“What are you doing, Father?”

“Well, that is.....Whatever Leon-kun told you was just made up. I’ve talked to him about marrying you, so you don’t need to worry about anything. Everything’s fine.”

“Fuu...well, that’s good.”

“Ah, right. But, it’s dangerous there so come over here with me.”

Carlos turned his eyes to me and said this. The way he’s speaking, he’s trying to make it seem like I wanted to take Sophia hostage.

Of course, I never planned on doing that.

But, Carlos is genuinely worried, so Sophia has no reason to doubt his words. She nods and slowly heads towards the door.

Should I stop this?.....No, Carlos wouldn’t harm Sophia. She should be safe wherever he takes her.

More important than that, is finding a way to get free of Carlos’ control.

“Alice, can you move?”

I ask Alice, who is leaned up against me.

“Sorry, I still don’t have any strength....it’s impossible.”

“Okay. I’m going to buy some time, so please watch for an opportunity.”

I lay Alice on the floor so that she can run away at anytime.

But, not right now. I’ll try to buy time by asking about Sophia, and hopefully

find a way to help Claire escape.

While thinking this, Sophia arrived in front of Carlos.

“...Hey, Father, what did you do to Leon onii-chan?”

“That is.....I just negotiated with him.”

“.....Negotiation? Negotiation!? Haha, hahahahahah. That’s what you call a negotiation!?”

Sophia suddenly started laughing. I was behind her, so I couldn’t tell what kind of expression she was making.

But Carlos and Elyse were in a position to see her face, and they both looked shocked.

“So...Sophia? What’s.....what’s wrong so suddenly?”

“Ahahaha.....haa. Ah~that’s so strange. Father, did you forget?”

“Wh-what is it?”

“My ability, remember? Even if I don’t touch you, I can tell what you’re thinking. So, I could tell what you were thinking when you said negotiated.”

“What are you saying —- !? Are you angry about what I ordered my people to do? That was just to free Leon-kun.”

“.....Just another lie. I was scared of knowing everyone’s true feelings before, but if I can find out stuff like this, I should have used it much earlier.....Right, Father?”

Sophia calmly takes one more step towards her father.

At the same time, she reached down near the hem of her skirt and grabbed the daggers that were attached to her thighs.

What was that? Nobody left in the area seemed to know what just happened. Immediately afterwards, fresh blood danced around Sophia, covering her in red from head to toe.

Carlos then slowly collapsed in the pool of blood that had formed at his feet. Everyone finally understood. Sophia had used the daggers to cut through her father’s throat.



“So...Sophia....?”

After hearing my words, Sophia slowly turned towards me.

“It’s okay, Leon onii-chan. Onii-chan, I’ll kill all the bad people that cause you pain. No matter who they are, I’ll kill them all.”

As Sophia stood there, covered in blood, she smiled innocently.

I couldn’t describe what I felt after seeing that. If Sophia could tell what I felt at that time, our relationship would have been forever changed from that point on.

Fortunately, or maybe unfortunately, Sophia did not notice. The only reason she didn’t notice was because Regis, who had finally regained his senses, rushed over to Carlos.

“Carlos-sama, hold on! Carlos-sama!?”

Regis kneeled in the pool of blood and supported Carlos’ limp body, but it was already too late for Carlos. Regis’ face was distorted in pain.

“Carlos-sama, I’m sorry. Even though I was by your side.....”

Regis gently set Carlos’ body down on the floor, and closed his eyes. He then quietly stood up and looked down at Sophia.

“...Sophia-sama, why, why did you do this? Do you understand what you’ve done?”

“I should be asking you that, Regis. Why did you kill Leon onii-chan’s family? Do you understand what you did?”

“Th...that’s because.....”

“Haa~, such a terribly strong feeling of guilt. Still, that didn’t stop you.... Because it was my father’s orders, you did it because you’re so devoted to the Sfir family.”

Regis doesn’t answer, but for Sofia, and her ability, she doesn’t need to hear his words. She continued this one-sided conversation,

“I understand your feelings Regis. I understand them, but.....still I will never forgive you for the pain you’ve caused Leon onii-chan.”

Sophia approached Regis and silently raised the dagger.

“Please stop, Ojou-sama!”

Regis tried to block the dagger with his bare hands. In fact, Sophia was moving slow enough that I could probably stop her with one hand.

However, Sophia still managed to stab the dagger into Regis’ chest.

“.....Wha-?.....Why?”

“Haa~, why are you surprised? Attack when your opponent’s guard is down, isn’t it the same way you killed Blake-san?”

“Something like that? For me to be so careless.....”

“Mou~, Regis, you need to listen to other people’s stories properly. I told you I can read other people’s minds, right? It’s easy for me to predict your movements, so naturally I’d be able to catch you off guard, right?”

“Ojou....sama.....”

“.....Goodnight, Regis. I didn’t hate how loyal you were.”

Sophia lets out a small, lonely laugh and pulls out the dagger from Regis’ chest. Immediately after, while still gushing blood, Regis collapsed.

Everyone is frozen.

Sophia is the only one making any noise, laughing innocently in the room dominated by surprise and fear.

.....What is going on? This doesn’t look anything like the Sophia I know. Is this really Sophia in front of me?

“Now, then.....Mother.....it’s your turn.”

Sophia turns her gaze to Elyse, who was still frozen in fear. The moment their eyes met Elyse seemed to regain her senses.

“So-Sophia! What are you going to do! I am your mother!”

“.....In your mind you’re thinking I’m nothing but a monster. Well, such words are fitting.”

“——Hiii!?”

It seems Sophia hit the bullseye — I guess Sophia is continuing to read everyone's minds. Elyse's face was overcome with fear, she threw Claire to the side, and began to retreat down the hall.

But, Elyse had nowhere to go and was backed into the end of the corridor by Sophia. Sophia walked slowly towards Elyse —

“This isn't good Sophia, you must stop!”

I came back to my senses and quickly grabbed on to Sophia's arms. At that moment, Elyse screamed and clumsily ran away.

“Let go onii-chan, I can't kill Mother like this!”

“Stop this! You can't kill her!”

I desperately hold on to the arms of Sophia, she tries to break free from my grasp. Sophia continued to struggle for a while, but when she saw Elyse disappear from the corridor, she became quiet.

After confirming she was calm, I released her. She then slowly turned to look at me.

“.....Onii-chan, why did you stop me? Why, Leon onii-chan, isn't what Mother did unforgivable?”

“I can never forgive her.....But, why do you need to kill her?”

“Well, Mother knew about everything. When she learned that onii-chan's family had been killed, she was pleased that the Sfir family would gain even more power. Can that be forgiven?”

“That is.....”

I feel sick after hearing this. If that is the truth — no, Sophia read her mind, it's definitely true.

If so —

“Don't you want to kill her too?”

“You-you're wrong!”

“I'm not wrong. In your heart you can't forgive her, it's screaming out for you to kill her!”

“That’s.....”

Calm down, I need to calm down. If Sophia is saying that then it must be true.

No, I certainly have the urge to kill. I was hoping to get along with all of my family. Even though I wouldn’t have been able to do it now, I hoped that someday I could.

In the end, everyone was killed for the Sfir family’s selfish reasons.

Something like that can never be forgiven!

.....However,

“Still, I don’t want Sophia to kill anyone else. Please, stop trying to kill people.”

The moment when I said so, Sophia’s face was dyed with surprise and fear.

“.....Eh, you’re lying. You have to be.....Was it useless? Sophia was working so hard for Leon onii-chan.”

“No, I don’t want you killing anyone.”

“If that’s the case then, what should I do!? Sophia’s mother and father killed Leon onii-chan’s family!”

“.....Sophia?”

“No...no, no, no Leon onii-chan will hate me! No, I don’t want that....no, no, no, no, no, no, nnnnnnnooooooooooooooooooooo!”

“Sophia, calm down! Sophia!”

Damn it, I misjudged her reaction! I knew she was unstable, so why did I reject her!?

I embrace Sophia and try to calm her down, but Sophia is thrashing around violently, I have no idea how her tiny body has so much power.

“Leon, keep hold of her!”

Almost at the same time I was able to understand that it was Alice’s voice, all of the power left Sophia’s body. I held her up so that she wouldn’t collapse.

“Did you put her to sleep?”

‘Yes, I thought it was best to calm her down. Was I wrong to do that?’

“No, you saved me.”

Sophia was obviously irrational.

She relived all the tragedies I’ve been through and killed her own father. How much strain was put on this young girl.....If she’s left as is, Sophia’s mind may remain broken.

First I need to calm her down, then I need to take my time and care for her.....

With these thoughts in my mind, several footsteps could be heard approaching us from behind. And soon, a few knights rushed into the room.

“ -- Father!? Stay with me!”

One of the knights rushes to Carlos and checks on his condition. He quickly found out that Carlos was already dead. He then turned his angry expression to me.

“Did you do this!?”

“No, it wasn’t me.”

“Then, who was it! And what have you done to Sophia!?”

.....As expected, who would believe me in this situation?

A suspicious boy who has invaded the mansion of another person. Carlos and Regis’ bodies are near me, and I’m currently holding Sophia’s unconscious body in my arms.

No matter how you look at it, I appear to be the criminal here.

First of all, it’s a problem that I don’t know whose side this knight is on, he doesn’t know anything that happened with Carlos. But, if he was already on Carlos’ side then a fight is unavoidable.

“That person is innocent, Eric-sama.”

Suddenly a voice could be heard from the corner of the room. When I turned to look for the source, it was one of the knights that Alice had knocked out.

“Will, you’re okay!”

“Yes, Eric-sama, I was a little stunned, but I know the situation. They are not guilty — rather..... Carlos-sama was the criminal here.”

“What? What are you saying!?”

“Actually —”

The knight, Will, began to explain what had happened. Although he had been following Carlos’ orders, he seemed to be disgusted by Carlos’ cowardly nature.

That’s why Eric, who was doubtful at the beginning, eventually believed we were innocent. Not everything has been resolved, but for now it seems we’re saved.

# Epilogue

The crime the Sfir family committed was too serious.

If the truth were to be exposed, the Sfir family would surely be destroyed. Eric and Sophia would surely be blamed, even though they knew nothing about their family's plans.

But, that is not what I want. So I decided to talk with Eric to find another way for the Sfir family to take responsibility.

Of course, I haven't completely relaxed my guard, but Eric has a rather nice personality, so I think it's safe to speak with him.

In that way, night came.

I was looking up at the night sky on a second floor balcony of the Sfir family's mansion. As I was watching the blue moon, I again remembered that this is a different world.

How long have I been here? Quiet footsteps approached from behind me.

"Leon, so this is where you were."

A gentle tone that blends into the night scenery. Alice looks up at the sky while cuddling up to me.

"How are Claire's wound?"

"They're fine. I think that it should be healed without a scar within a week."

"That's a relief."

If a scar remained on Claire's cheek, I would be full of regret every time I saw it. I was relieved that there would be no lasting damage.

"It's going to be really difficult going forward...."

"You're right..."

I'll need to rebuild the Grances family and there's still the matter of Claire's

engagement. I'm still worried about Sophia, and I need to find Milli.

To be honest, it sounds like too much for one person to accomplish.

"What are you planning to do now, Leon?"

"What do you mean?"

"I thought you'd now become head of the Grances family."

"Well....I wasn't interested in the position of Earl at first, but now I'm actually reconsidering it."

"Is that right? That's a bit unexpected."

"If I become Earl, I can do things like grow sugarcane, right?"

On the contrary, I can do a lot of things with my internal domestic affairs "cheat," like when I was fighting against influenza. Although it may be unclear if I say it like that, but it sounds interesting like a miniature garden. (TN: Sorry not sure about the translation for this, 箱庭系. Something like miniature garden system?) "If that's the case, I'll help out as much as possible. I think my knowledge will be useful."

"I'm sure you'd be a great help, but...helpful or not, you have already been released from the slave contract, so you can live as you wish."

"That's what I'm doing, I want us to be happy together....I want to walk the same path as you, Leon."

"I....I see."

C-c-calm down me. It feels somewhat like she just confessed to me, but I was the one who first said I wanted us to be happy together. There was no other meaning to my words at that time.

I was too embarrassed to think straight after misunderstanding this as a confession. I was looking at Alice trying to remain calm.

Her cherry blossom colored hair blew in the wind as she stared at me quietly. Under the faint light from the blue moon, I could tell her cheeks were dyed red.

"Alice....?"

"I...I like you, Leon."



My heart and mind were unprepared for such a straightforward confession. My heart is beating incredibly fast, I wouldn't be surprised if Alice could hear it.

"A..Alice? Just now, that's....."

".....It was a confession. As a woman, I like Leon. I love you. I know Leon is still a child, so I'm not sure you understand something like this, but the way I feel about you is real."

"Ah...uhh...well, okay.....Thank.....you."

Oh no, my face is hot. I'm going through a lot of emotions and I don't know what to do. I'm lost in Alice's blue eyes, I can't take my eyes off of her.

"Leon.....do you like me? Or do you not understand the feeling of love yet?"

"N-no, it's not that. I —"

Wait, I need to calm down. I need to think about what I'm going to say. Although, in total, I've lived for nearly 30 years now, but my physical age is only ten. It's too early for me to be deciding my future.

However — I turn my eyes to look at Alice.

Alice has always been there to support me over the past few years. Without Alice, I would never have been able to save Claire or Sophia.

Most of all, she is kind and cute. It's fun spending time with Alice. I want to stay with Alice forever. Those are my true feelings.

If that's the case, age may not matter.

However....

"Alice, let me ask just one thing. Why do you love me?"

Alice's mother was concerned about Stockholm syndrome. Its origin comes from a bank robbery in Stockholm, one of the hostages eventually married one of the criminals years after the bank robbery.

In other words, the reason Alice likes me, may be due to the influence of the slave contract.

Of course, I don't think that's the real reason. It's true that I have fun with Alice and it seems she feels the same.

But, if Alice wasn't a slave from the beginning, she might only have thought of me as a friend.

This uneasiness stays in my mind.

"Why I like you? There are many reasons.....After all you're similar to my older brother."

"Older brother.....You mean, I remind you of your older brother?"

"Yes, the mood you give off. Ah, don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to use you as a replacement for my older brother."

"I am not worried, but....you like me because I remind you of your older brother?"

"I guess that's not normal, but my brother and I had a special relationship."

"Special.....What do you mean?"

Impossible, Alice and Claire are the same.....No, no way.

"Well, Leon, It may be cowardly to say this after I just confessed, but I'll say it anyway, because I feel like I won't be able to say it any other time."

Wh-what's with this preface. Did she really have such a deep relationship with her brother? Well, I don't think that's true, but.....I can't deny the flow of her story so far.

— I....I don't know. Am I just creating a huge misunderstanding? Yeah, that has to be it. So, please don't hesitate to say anything.

"I....I liked my older brother."

She really is the same as Claire — !?

Calm down. I came to like the Alice I know now, not the Alice from the past. No matter what kind of past Alice has, my feelings won't change!

.....But, I'm still worried about it.

"Are you trying to say.....you were dating?"

"N...no, my feelings were one-sided. I never told him how I felt."

"Is that.....because your older brother died?"

“No.”

I was expecting her to say, “I was never able to confess my feelings because my brother died,” but I guess I was wrong.

Therefore —

“I was the one that died, not my brother.”

I don’t understand Alice’s words at all. I silently stood there out of shock, and Alice went on to explain, “I was dead at one point. I — I have memories from my previous life of a different world than this.”

“.....A world different than this?”

That’s.....that’s not possible —

“There was no magic in that world, but the country I was from, Japan, had a civilization much more advanced than this world.”

“Then, when you said you were sick and you were always a burden to your brother....?”

“It’s a memory from my life in Japan. I had no brothers in this world.”

Well, can this really be happening? Certainly, I was reincarnated, so reincarnation isn’t impossible. But, she was sickly and a burden to her older brother.....No way, that’s not possible....

“.....Saya.....?”

“Eh? How do you know my name — impossible....Yuya nii-san.....really?”

‘Y....yes. That’s right. So, you’re really Saya?’

“...It can’t be true...Re-really, is it really you nii-san?”

“Yep, it’s true.”

“— Yuya nii-san!”

At that moment Alice jumped into my arms and I embraced her back.

“Yuya nii-san, Yuya nii-san, Yuya nii-san!”

“....Yep, it’s me. Saya, it’s been a long time.”

“Yes, yes, it’s been too long.”

Alice slowly separated from me and looked at me like she had become frightened.

“.....Saya? What’s wrong?”

“Do...you hate me?”

“Ha? Why?”

“Because....I was a burden to you. You must have hated me for being such a burden until the end. So, you must hate me even more after finding out I was reincarnated.”

Alice looks at me with anxious eyes.

.....I see.

I was trying to find happiness to grant Saya’s dying wish, but the reason I did that was because I knew I had hurt Saya by causing a misunderstanding.

I thought I’d never be able to fix the misunderstanding from that day.

However —

“.....I don’t hate you. In the first place, I never hated you. I never thought of you as a burden, Saya.”

“You’re lying! You were trying so hard, it must have been so difficult for you!”

“That wasn’t your fault Saya. I didn’t want to worry you so I kept silent, but I also suffered from the same illness as you.”

“You’re lying.”

“It’s the truth. That’s why I quit school. You also left school right before you were hospitalized, right?”

“That’s.....”

I guess she’s recalling a lot of memories from her previous life. Soon, I can see that Alice is beginning to understand.

“Then, you’re telling the truth? Nii-san, you really don’t hate me?”

“.....Of course not. There’s no way I can dislike Saya.”

“I see....That’s how it was.....Nii-san never hated me.”

“Yep, I’ve never hated you.”

“I see.....That’s how it was.”

Alice smiled a little as large tear drops began to fall from her eyes. Finally, I was finally able to fix the misunderstanding from that day. I never thought I’d be able to do it.

“Hey, Yuya nii-san, you fought the disease for eight years?”

Alice’s tears stop for a bit and she looks up at me.

“.....Eh? No, it was around one year.”

“Then, that doesn’t make any sense. When I died, you were already sick, right?”

“You’re right. That’s why.....huh?”

If I was born again right after I died, I should be one year younger than Alice, but I’m actually eight years younger.

—No, wait. Before I died, I lost everything except for my hearing and kept on living for a while as if I were sleeping. If I remained alive in that state for seven years — Let’s stop thinking about this. Even if that were true, it wouldn’t be pleasant for Saya to hear what happened to me.

“Yuya nii-san?”

“I died a year after you did. So, I’m guessing when I died I wasn’t reincarnated immediately.”

“Is that so? I guess that might be the case.”

That wasn’t entirely the truth, but it’s probably best not to pursue that trail of thought any further. Alice quickly smiled back at me.

More important than that — I look at Alice one more time.

We’ve spent the last few years together. All that time with this girl that’s become such an important person to me. I feel like it’s impossible that Alice isn’t on my side.

But, Alice is Saya. She's my real younger sister.

"Hey, Saya....That confession from a little while ago —"

"My earlier confession was serious."

"Eh, but we were siblings in our previous life, right?"

"Still, I like you, Leon. How do you feel about me? If you have the memories from your previous life, you should understand love, right?"

".....Well, umm, honestly I am also attracted to Alice, I want to be together forever, but we are siblings connected by blood — hnn!?"

I couldn't finish my sentence. Alice hugged my body and my mouth was silenced by Alice's lips.....No, no no. What are you doing with your lips? Huh? What? Kiss? Why are you kissing me!?

"A...Alice!? Do you know what you're doing!?"

".....What are you saying? Of course it's a kiss between lovers."

"Of course a kiss — that's not it! Calm down! We were brother and sister, right!?"

I was trying to calm down, but Alice just tilted her head and looked at me, confused as to why I was panicking.

"Isn't it fine? In our previous life, we were brother and sister, but not anymore. In our minds we may be brother and sister, but genetically there should be no problem, right?"

"Well that's certainly true.....no, no, I will not be deceived!"

"Eh~?"

"No, don't 'Eh~' me. First off, move away a little bit."

"Why?"

"Well that's because, something like this....."

I was unable to finish saying, "It's because we're brother and sister." Just like Alice said, we were brother and sister in our previous life, but in this world there's no blood connection at all.

“Hey, Yuya nii-san....I liked you, but I was never able to confess. So, I thought I would never be able to see you again and I gave up.”

“Then, this situation is strange, right!?”

“It’s not strange. The one I fell in love with was Leon, so there should be no problems.”

“No, no, no, Leon was you’re real older brother though.”

“That’s even more amazing! The person I loved in this life turned out to be the older brother I loved in my previous life!”

“Why are you so happy!? Even in dramas, if the lovers are siblings separated for their entire lives, there’s bound to be many conflicts!”

“Isn’t that strange? If the lovers were separated for their entire lives wouldn’t they be pleased to see one another? I would go to great lengths to see my lover!”

“Don’t go anywhere, come back! Rather, calm down a little! Saya’s character should be more restrained! Why are you so aggressive!?”

“It’s because in my previous life, I was always sick. So, I’ve always been like this in this world.”

“Eeeeeeehhhhh.....”

Somehow, the image of Saya I had in my mind was shattered.

“Besides, you can see my hair, right!?”

Alice smiled while running her fingers through her cherry blossom colored hair.

“.....What do you mean?”

I felt an ominous feeling after asking this, but Alice just answered with a broad smile.

“In Japan, pink hair would be so lewd. So it’s fitting, right?”

“Is that your reason!? Show some self-respect!”

# Extra Chapter: Claire Ridill's Character Summaries!

Well, I should start by introducing myself — I am Claire Ridill who first appeared in volume one. There are some spoilers for volume one ahead so be careful if you haven't read the story so far.

On the contrary, since volume one is mostly for setting up the world, you should see volume two! That's when a truly amazing person becomes more involved in the story, so it's okay to read this before that part.

You might be asking why I'm doing these character introductions.....I wonder if someone that's only read volume one will become interested in reading more of the series.

So, without further delay, let the introductions begin.

## 【Leon Grances】

First of all, the main character of the story. The second son of the Grances family, my otouto-kun. He's an important character, so don't forget that. He was born in June, and is ten years old at the end of the first volume. He has black hair and green eyes. He is my only younger brother, and he has a rather attractive appearance.

By the way, he has memories from his previous life as Amemiya Yuya. So, that's why he has so much knowledge despite being kept isolated for most of his life. The reason why I know this.....I'd be happy if you can guess.

## 【Alistair】

Alice. At first, she was nicknamed Tia, by Claire and Sophia. Milli was also nicknamed Mia. So, there were four people's names ending in "-ia" so some changes were made.

She was born in June, the same month as otouto-kun. She is an elf that is eight years older than otouto-kun.

She has gorgeous long, straight, cherry blossom colored hair. Her left eye is blue and the right one is gold. Having different colored eyes is proof that she is a



legendary high elf.

Moreover, she has two abilities from legendary heroes. One being enhanced perception and the other being the ability to share her senses. She is a first-class spirit magician. She is also a reincarnator from another world with a genuine cheat ability.

In her previous life she was Yuya's younger sister. In other words, she is also my sister from another world, my younger sister.

By the way, the elves in this world age normally up to about age sixteen and after that point they will only age gradually.

That's why, Milli-san was wrong to describe otouto-kun as an elf when he was younger. There are elves that live for many years that look like they're still in their teens, but elves that appear to be under the age of ten are most likely just children.

### 【Claire Ridill Grances】

That's me. The eldest daughter of the Grances family. I am the older sister of my otouto-kun. In other words, I am his sister from another world.

I have green eyes, identical to otouto-kun's. I'm very proud of my wavy, platinum blonde hair.

By the way my birthday is in April, I'm one year older than otouto-kun. I'm eleven and nine months old at the end of volume one. I'm supposed to be married in three months.

What happens with my marriage will be told in volume two, so I'm sorry, but you'll have to wait to find out.

It's my dream to be able to accomplish things on my own, but so far I have always been helped by otouto-kun. So, I will keep on trying hard from now on.

### 【Sophia Sfir】

The second daughter of the Sfir family, she is Sophia-chan.

Her birthday is in December, she's three years younger than otouto-kun. To be more precise, she is three years and six months younger.

She's a beautiful girl with medium length bright, golden hair. Her eyes are a deep red. It wasn't a joke when she was said to look like an angel when she was a baby!

.....Well, the end of the first volume saw her become a fallen angel. But, you will find out what happens with Sophia-chan in volume two.

### 【Robert Grances】

The, now deceased, head of the Grances family. He was otouto-kun and my father. He was 21 years older than otouto-kun, and he had blue eyes and blonde hair like most of the nobility.

He always was at the beck and call of Mother, because of the guilt he felt — He and otouto-kun were very alike, I think it was this weakness that I fell in love with.

Although this wasn't described in the work so far, as a married couple, Mother and Father seemed to be a good match.

By the way, otouto-kun was going to be married into the Sfir family. Father thought this would be a good opportunity to use otouto-kun's talents. It wasn't a coincidence that Father told otouto-kun about his engagement on his birthday. If Blake nii-san hadn't interrupted their conversation, the future would have surely been different.

In the end, Father's choices led to his own death, but.....I can honestly say I was proud of him.

If there is a system in this world that reincarnates you after death, I hope I can meet my mother again some day.

### 【Caroline Grances】

Robert's legal wife, my mother. She was the same age as Father and also had blonde hair and blue eyes.

For me, I can't say that she was a very good mother...but still her personality wasn't terrible.

Mother always believed Milli-san was trying to steal Father from her, but I just think it was in her imagination.

This was part of the reason for otouto-kun's isolation. It was obvious that Father was attracted to Milli-san and if Milli-san's child became the next heir, Mother believed that she'd be cast aside.

### 【Blake Grances】

My older brother, the eldest son of the Grances family. He had typical

aristocratic features and he was four years older than otouto-kun.

I'm sure he gave off quite an arrogant image, I think Mother may have made him this way. He was four years older than otouto-kun, but he was still only in his early teens.

You're the eldest son of the family and you'll become the next head of the house. But now there is a child of a mistress that wants your position, so you must defeat him.

If I grew up being told that, I may have acted the same way.

【Milli】

Milli-san. Otouto-kun's mother. And in the future will become my mother-in-law.

She has purple eyes and brown hair. As expected, the mother of otouto-kun is an amazingly beautiful woman. She is sixteen years older than otouto-kun.

In other words — she was fifteen years old when she and Father were together. (TN: The raw uses the word “rape” here, but everything else seems to indicate it was consensual.)

It seems that Milli-san was also attracted to Father. At the time, Father seduced her and she became his mistress. I'm sure it was painful for Mother.

She's returned to her hometown now, but she will show up again in the future.

【Michelle】

She is my personal maid. She's like a mother to me.

She is sixteen years older than otouto-kun. She has black hair and black eyes, which is a pretty unusual appearance in this world. She looks Japanese, but she isn't a reincarnator.

Of course, Michelle will also be in the story again in the future.

【Mary】

The maid assigned to watch otouto-kun after Milli left.

She is sixteen years older than otouto-kun and she has red hair and brown eyes. She is a diligent, quiet, and hardworking maid, but she was hardly mentioned in this volume. I wonder if she'll be mentioned more in volume three.

If there is demand for her, she may appear again.

【Carlos Sfir】

The head of the Sfir family. He was twenty years older than otouto-kun. His eyes are blue but his hair is brown, which is unusual for nobility. He seemed to be disappointed at the lack of development of the territories he controlled. This seems to be the reason for his surprising ambition.....that is if you believe otouto-kun's story.

### 【Elyse Sfir】

Carlos' wife. She is eighteen years older than otouto-kun. She has blue eyes and bright, blonde hair. This wasn't told in the work so far, but Carlos had a complex with his hair color. So, he purposefully married a blonde woman in the hopes that his children would have blonde hair. Because of this, they made a very unusual couple.

### 【Eric Sfir】

The eldest son of the Sfir family, a young boy that is three years older than otouto-kun. He has blue eyes and dirty blonde hair. He is Sophia's only brother. He is also fairly good looking. Well, he's nowhere near as attractive as otouto-kun. Also, he had nothing to do with what happened with the Sfir family. It seems he truly knew nothing of their plans.

### 【Regis】

He was 28 years older than otouto-kun and had brown hair and black eyes. He was the captain of the Sfir Knights and after he retired began serving as a butler to the family. Unfortunately, he was so loyal to the Sfir family that he carried out their dark commands without question. When the Grances mansion was attacked, Regis only selected those that were as loyal to the Sfir family as he was, he knew they'd stay quiet about the attack. By the way, he really loved Sophia as if she was his real daughter. He also taught her sword fighting, the results of which.....were quite painful.

### 【Crane Gramp】

The Marquis of Gramp, my fiancé. By the way, he is nineteen years older than otouto-kun, which means he's eighteen years older than me. Although he is a respected marquis, he is a definite lolicon. There's no doubt

about it.....Although, that seems to be a common thing in this world.  
By the way, what happens with my engagement will be told at the beginning of volume two.

Okay the introductions for volume one are now done.  
Let's meet again in the next volume!